Maryland Historical Magazine

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The Maryland Historical Society
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

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CONTENTS

Cylinder Desk

Baltimore, 1815–1830

Possible attribution to William Camp (fl. 1801–1822)

This extraordinary desk is part of an important group of Baltimore Empire case furniture ornamented with Gothic panels and the so-called "caryatid" figures. Both these elements are listed in the *New York Book of Prices for Manufacturing Cabinet and Chair Work* (1817), the caryatids then being called "tapered therms with mummy heads and feet." The tentative attribution to William Camp (1773–1822), Baltimore's premier cabinetmaker of the early nineteenth century, is based on several factors. First, the case and drawer construction is exactly the same as that of a documented camp *secretaire* of the same period. Furthermore, it can be documented that Camp made pieces with Gothic panels and that he particularly favored cylinder lids for desks. The use of highly figured West Indian satinwood is generally seen on pieces attributed to Camp, who carried on a wholesale lumber business and stocked this and other fancy woods. Finally, sophistication and kinship to Philadelphia work are characteristics of many other pieces documented or attributed to Camp's shop.

HISTORY: Robert E. Owings, an owner of the desk, believed it had originally belonged to his great grandfather Dr. Thomas Owings (1802–1866).

STRUCTURE: The primary wood, small drawer sides and back, drawer stops, and ratchet mechanism are mahogany; the small drawer fronts and pigeon holes are satinwood; the small drawer knobs and escutcheons are ebony; the small drawer bottom and runners, the large drawer sides, back, and bottom, the partitions in the top, and the backboards of the case are poplar; the interior framing and dust boards are white pine.

DIMENSIONS: OH: 56 ¾ in., 144.1 cm; OW: 54 in., 137.1 cm; OD: 22 ¼ in., 56.5 cm.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Stone and Purchase of the Ellen Howard Bayard Memorial Purchase Fund 83.58

Excerpted from *Furniture in Maryland, 1740–1940: The Collection of the Maryland Historical Society*, by Gregory R. Weidman (Baltimore, 1984). Orders: $35 postpaid (Md. residents add 5% sales tax) from MHS, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore MD 21201.

Annual Report

July 1, 1983—June 30, 1984

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Maryland Historical Society

Maryland Historical Magazine
Vol. 79, No. 4, Winter 1984

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Sadly, our first order of business is to report the death of T. Rowland Slingluff, Jr., a Trustee who gave much of himself to the Society and whose advice will be much missed. May I request that we rise for a moment of silence in his memory. Thank you.

It is always customary at this Annual "Family" Meeting of the Society to reflect on and to praise the tremendous interest and diligent efforts of our Trustees who, in accordance with the by-laws, are rotating off the Board. I know from personal conversations that those who leave us in the class of 1984 intend to keep up their volunteer interest and help during the coming years. It is with a great deal of gratitude and personal thanks from the whole organization that we ask for a standing acclamation for these retiring Trustees:

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During the past year, our incomparable, lovely Director Romaine Somerville, asked for early retirement. Romaine's health had been poor prior to heart surgery, and she felt it wise to be relieved of the stress of running the Society. The Board recognizes the many contributions that Romaine has made not only as Director for the past six years, but also during her tenure as Curator of the Gallery. Among her greatest accomplishments has been her ability to work in harmony with our in-house Committees and various governmental bodies and her leadership in the renovation of Government House. Also, she has been diligent in seeing that the new Maryland History project got off to a proper start, that our NEH grant to the endowment was efficiently handled, that the Monument Street lot across from the Society became our property, and countless other vital accomplishments. Our hats are off to her, and our hearts wish her well for a long future.

Our friend and Trustee, Jeff Miller, very generously volunteered to assist the Society as Acting Director until a permanent successor to Romaine is selected. A fifteen-member search committee was formed June 1st and will be functioning during the early fall toward that end.

The Nominating Committee, in accordance with custom, will present its slate of Trustees, Officers, Committee Chairmen, and Members, but I wish at this time to say how fortunate we have been to have Brian Topping as our hard-hitting President and Leonard (Red) Crewe as C.E.O. and Vice Chairman.

Red rotates off the Board this year, but his wise counsel and thorough knowledge of our organization will be preserved on the Executive Committee where he will serve as Past President.

All in all, we have had a good year, and the Chairman on behalf of the Board wishes to compliment all of the staff for bearing up under the stress of the many activities that have moved our Society forward into the first rank of state and local Museums and Libraries.

Before closing, I would be remiss if you all here, the total membership and the Trustees, did not have the opportunity of thanking Red Crewe for so many years of dedicated loyalty to this Society. Red's leadership, dedication, financial backing and above all—sound common sense, all blended to help achieve the real growth and excellence that the Museum and Library of Maryland History has accomplished over the past fifteen years. Witness that during Red's tenure as CEO of the Society, the budget has risen from $250,000 to $1,000,000 (balanced each of the past five years). Membership has jumped from 5,000 to 7,000. Endowment funds have nearly doubled to $6,500,000.

Even though we are not losing you, Red, all want to say "a thousand thanks" for what you have accomplished since joining the Gallery Committee in 1970.

J. FIFE SYMINGTON, JR.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The past year was one of change for the Maryland Historical Society. After more than a decade of devoted and productive service, Romaine Stec Somerville retired as the Society's director. The strength of the professional staff, Trustees, and Council enabled the Society to continue on course.

The Museum and Library each had an excellent year. Under the leadership of Stiles T. Colwill, Chief Curator, many important new acquisitions were made. Some of the more significant of these were Richard Caton Woodville's splendid portrait of Dr. Thomas Edmondson (Michael and Marie Abrams Memorial Purchase Fund), a rare Maryland silver lemon strainer crafted by Gabriel Lewyn (John L. Thomas Memorial Fund), and a choice group of six pieces of Maryland furniture (donated by Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Legum). A major exhibition, *Silver in Maryland, 1740–1940*, was mounted under the direction of Jennifer F. Goldsborough, Curator of Silver, and a scholarly catalog by Mrs. Goldsborough was published simultaneously. During the year two major projects were in progress. The new installation of the collections of the Radcliffe Maritime Museum was planned and supervised by Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward, Curator of the Maritime collections. Gregory R. Weidman, Curator of Furniture, completed her catalogue of Maryland furniture in the Society's collections. Publication is scheduled for November of 1984, and the catalog's arrival will be accompanied by a special exhibition of a number of the important pieces belonging to the Society.

The Library, under the able direction of William B. Keller, extended service to increased numbers of users in all three of its divisions. Numerous acquisitions were made to the collections and several exhibitions were mounted. Of special interest was an exhibition entitled "Maryland's Beginnings" which utilized selected documents from the Society's Calvert Papers. The Eubie Blake Memorial Collection was formally dedicated, and an important project involving microfilming the Ridgely Papers was undertaken by the Manuscripts Division.

Throughout the year the construction and planning of the Jack and Arabella Symington Memorial Library for Maryland Sporting Arts went forward. The Library, given by Jack and Arabella Symington's children and their spouses, will become an important new resource for the Society when it is opened in December of 1984.

The Committee on the Gallery, under the able direction of Mrs. Howard Baetjer II, and the Committee on the Library, under the strong leadership of Mr. Arthur J. Gutman, supported the professional staff members in an exemplary manner.

In excellent support of both the Museum and the Library, the Society's Registrar, Merrill E. Lavine, supervised outgoing and incoming loan transactions involving nearly 200 institutions and about 1,100 objects. Over 1,000 new acquisitions also were processed by the Registrar.

Our new Office of Public Programs, which has combined a number of functions, is now running smoothly. This office handles public relations, our "counties program," the antiques show, volunteer coordination, trips and many other special projects. Ann Egerton (Public Relations Director), Sherri Sweep (Administrator of Public Programs), and Madeline Abramson (Coordinating Secretary), have worked together beautifully. This organizational change should prove of great benefit in the coming years.

Judith Van Dyke, Director of Education, has reported a successful year. Indeed, the statistics are most impressive. With three professional staff members and fifty–five volunteers, a total of 22,615 visitors were given tours. Various educational workshops and classes were held. A special program for radio resulted in the production of forty–three short biographies of Marylanders. Our Speakers Bureau gave over eighty slide lectures around the state. A number of teachers' workshops were held and a new hospital visiting program was inaugurated.

Our Membership Coordinator, Lynn Satterfield, began a reorganization of our membership operation. A main objective will be an attempt to integrate our efforts in membership with the work of our Development Office.

The Accounting Department, under the efficient leadership of Mary Lou Jones, Accounting Manager, and Louis A. Judges, Controller, did a splendid job. Though it is behind the scenes, the work of our Accounting Department is absolutely essential to the Society. Especially noteworthy this year was the conversion of our accounting system (about 6200 membership accounts and 800 special ledger accounts) to a computerized system.

Again behind the scenes, but the bedrock upon which our day to day operations rest, the Building Services Department provided consistent maintenance and security. Kay Timmons, our Building Services Manager, ably supervised our complex plant. Her assistants, John McHale, Assistant Manager, and Eugene Marciszewski, Maintenance Engineer, kept our security and upkeep at a

professional level. We have some continuing difficulty with temperature and humidity control, but are making progress with this problem.

Beginning just a month before the end of this year, Elizabeth McP. Morgan came to the Society as Director of Development. Though our success in the endowment campaign represented a major achievement, our record in annual giving has been poor. Mrs. Morgan will concentrate on this aspect of fund raising and has made an excellent beginning.

The publication program at the Society remains strong. During the past year, Dr. Gary L. Browne, as editor of *Maryland Historical Magazine*, produced four excellent issues. William A. Sager, Director of Publications, was instrumental in the publication of Jennifer F. Goldsborough's fine catalogue on Maryland Silver and in the publication of our excellent Antiques Show catalogue.

The Museum Shop and Book Store again had a banner year. Under the direction of Barbara Gamse, our shop has been recognized as the finest of its type in the area. The shop not only helps to support the Society, but of equal importance, it is of great value as an attraction in its own right. We are indeed fortunate to have Mrs. Gamse as our shop manager.

Perhaps the most positive forward step taken during the past year was the decision to engage Barbara W. Sarudy as our new Administrative Director. Arriving in June, 1984, Mrs. Sarudy began a series of administrative and business reforms that will provide major improvements in the Society's operations. In terms of our budget and our overall efficiency, these important steps already have proved most effective.

There were many changes during the past year. The Maryland Historical Society is moving toward a position that will enable it to grow, to improve, and to better serve the people of Maryland in the future.

J. JEFFERSON MILLER II

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has been one of substantial change and progress for the Maryland Historical Society. I must begin by expressing our appreciation for the long and able leadership of our recently retired Director, Romaine Stec Somerville, and our retiring Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Leonard C. Crewe, Jr. Their vision of our role in this community and in the state and their leadership have brought us the great progress we have enjoyed over the past fifteen years. Under Romaine's able leadership, our membership has expanded, our collections have been properly conserved and attractively displayed, our library has enlarged to provide greater service to our patrons and our education programs have served hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren and adults. Romaine has set a high standard of performance to challenge all of us in the future.

Red Crewe has been a driving force, bringing the insight of his entrepreneurial and managerial skills to strengthen our organization. Red achieved the elusive balance between our income and our expenses over the years and leaves office with a balanced budget, a growing endowment, and our unfailing appreciation for his efforts. The Society remains in strong hands as one of our Trustees, J. Jefferson Miller II, has agreed to serve as our volunteer Acting Director. Jeff is Curator Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and before his many years at that museum, he was a member of the bar and a practicing attorney here in Baltimore. We are indeed fortunate to have someone of Jeff's stature available to give his vast experience to our diverse programs, thereby ensuring an orderly transition for all of us.

Our Council and its constituent volunteer committes work with our professional staff to form the backbone of our Society with volunteers donating thousands of valuable hours to our activities. Through our volunteer system, we gain access to the vast body of knowledge in our community and can focus our efforts on those areas of specific interest to our members and the citizens of Maryland. Some highlights of committee activities illustrate their efforts.

During the past year, the *Addresses Committee* sponsored two endowed lectures, The William and Sarah Norris Memorial Lecture on the "Iconography of Edgar Allan Poe" on October 27th and the Bernard C. Steiner Memorial Lecture given by The Right Honorable Lord Eden of Winton on March 23rd.

The *Education Committee* and its fifty-five volunteer tour guides provided tours for more than 22,000 visitors to our Society. Additionally, in honor of the 350th Anniversary of Maryland, the Committee researched and wrote 43 biographies of "Marylanders who made a difference." The scripts were broadcast by Frank Hennessey over WBJC–FM, our national public radio station.

The *Genealogy Committee* sponsored the first Mid–Atlantic Genealogy Conference, held at the Pikesville Hilton July 12–14. The Conference drew hundreds of participants from six states and the District of Columbia.

The *Maritime Committee* focused its attention last year on the complete reinstallation of the Maritime Museum. This new exhibit is scheduled to open in early October and should further our citizens' awareness of Maryland's maritime heritage. The Committee also mounted a traveling exhibit, "Maryland's Traditional Boat Builders," throughout the State.

Our *Membership Committee* reports that we have had a 4% increase in membership since 1983. This Committee sponsored a day trip to Chestertown which included tours of that city's many historic structures.

The *Programs Committee* presented a musical program and reception commemorating the acceptance of the Eubie Blake manuscripts and memorabilia on November 18th. During the Christmas season, it sponsored an afternoon of Christmas music by the choir from St. Michael and All Angels Church. Finally, on March 17th, it co–sponsored with Preservation Maryland, the fully subscribed Maryland Day Seminar, "Sites and Sounds of Colonial Maryland."

Our *Publications Committee* oversaw two major projects during the year. The first is a new guidebook to roadside historical markers in Maryland written by Frank Somerville. This guide is scheduled to go to the printer in December, 1984. The Committee also continued to oversee the France–Merrick History of Maryland project. Five chapters have now been completed by the author, Dr. Robert Brugger of the University of Virginia, and have been sent to the Advisory Board members for review. The book is on schedule and should be completed in 1985.

The *Public Relations Committee* assisted with media coverage for all of our special programs and exhibits. We extend special thanks to this committee for their work promoting the silver exhibit.

Our *Speakers Bureau* gave over 80 talks to 4000 adults and students in ten Maryland counties, the District of Columbia, and Baltimore City.

Our *Special Projects Committee* oversaw the very successful 1984 Maryland Antiques Show and Sale and is now busily involved in planning the 1985 Antiques Show as well as the 1985 Spring Auction.

Our *Women's Committee* assisted with most of the Society's special projects, receptions, and exhibits during the past year. The Committee sponsored trips to Frederick, Washington, and New York, and co-sponsored a joint Museum Day with the Baltimore Museum of Art. Additionally, the Committee hosted the Annual Christmas Party and planned a very creative program on Victorian Gardens, including a luncheon during which, it is rumored, the guests ate the flowers out of the centerpieces.

Our *Library Committee* mounted an exhibit, "Maryland's Beginnings," 350 years of Maryland history highlighted by the Society's collection of Calvert family papers. This Committee also oversaw the construction of the Jack and Arabella Symington Memorial Library for Maryland Sporting Arts, which will open this December. Additionally, the Library Committee continued its program to make our collections of reference materials, maps, manuscripts, and prints and photographs more accessible to our patrons.

Our *Annual Giving Committee* met most of its targets for this past year and reports a 40% increase in gifts received from individual members.

Finally, the *Gallery Committee* culminated a decade of planning with the critically-acclaimed exhibition "Silver in Maryland." This exhibition included over 575 objects from seventy lenders nationwide. It featured many objects from the Society's permanent silver collection and traced the history of silversmithing in Maryland. The Committee reviewed the 545 objects from our collection lent to sixty-seven institutions including the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the White House, the National Portrait Gallery, the Walters Art Gallery, the Virginia Museum, and the National Academy of Design. This Committee reviewed and accessioned over 1,000 individual objects into the Collection, ranging from architectural drawings to portraits. The Committee authorized several significant purchases including the Richard Caton Woodville portrait of Dr. Thomas Edmondson and the historically significant 1634 Calvert medallion. Both of these purchases were made possible through the Dr. Michael and Marie Abrams Memorial Purchase Fund.

I have tried to keep these comments as brief as possible; and in doing so, I am sure I have overlooked many other significant contributions of both volunteers and staff. But, here you have at least a flavor of our varied activities. Let me close by saying that I have personally enjoyed this past year and the opportunity it has given me to work closely with Romaine, Red, our dedicated staff, and our many active volunteers.

Thank you.

BRIAN B. TOPPING

With grateful appreciation, we list those members and friends who have made contributions to the Society from July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984.

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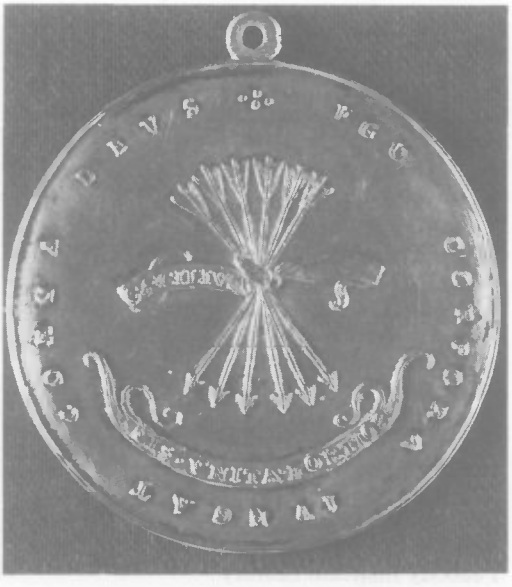

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(L. to R.) Clement Conger, Curator of the White House; Stiles T. Colwill, Chief Curator, MHS; Mrs. Brian B. Topping; Brian B. Topping, President, MHS; and First Lady Nancy Reagan on the occasion of the presentation of the Society's loan to the White House of James Hoban's original design drawing of "The President's House" (1792).

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During the summer of 1984, the Society benefited greatly from Exxon's funding of the Baltimore City Blue Chip In program, providing one intern each for the Museum and Library.

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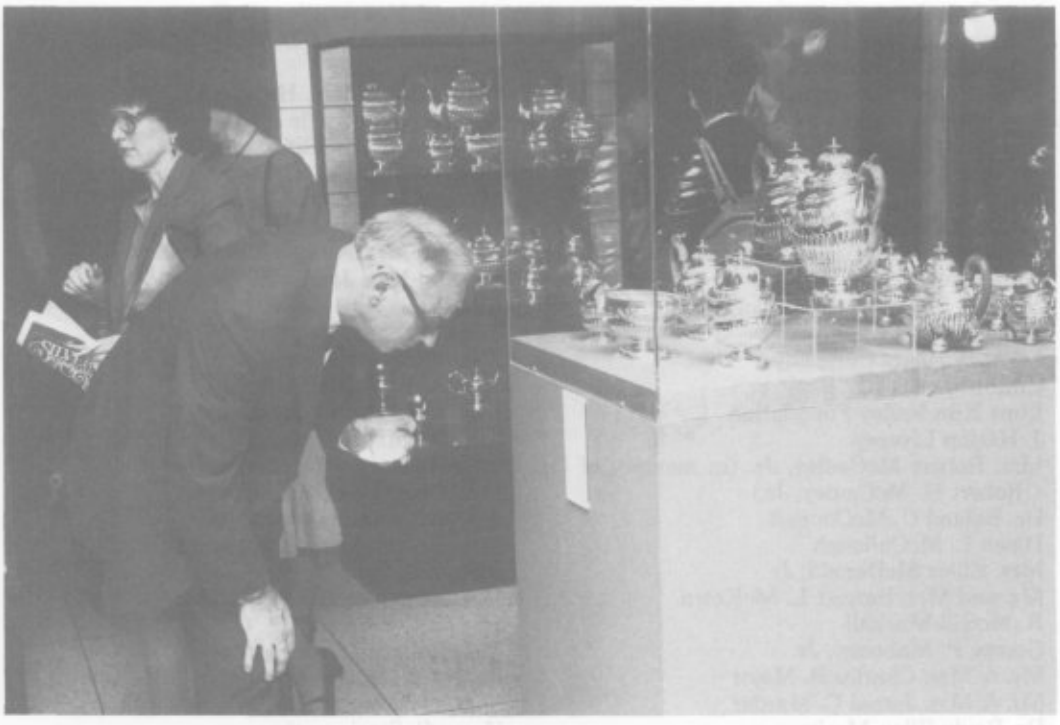

Culminating ten years of curatorial research, the Museum's "Silver in Maryland" was the largest exhibition of American silver ever mounted. The show was accompanied by an illustrated catalogue.

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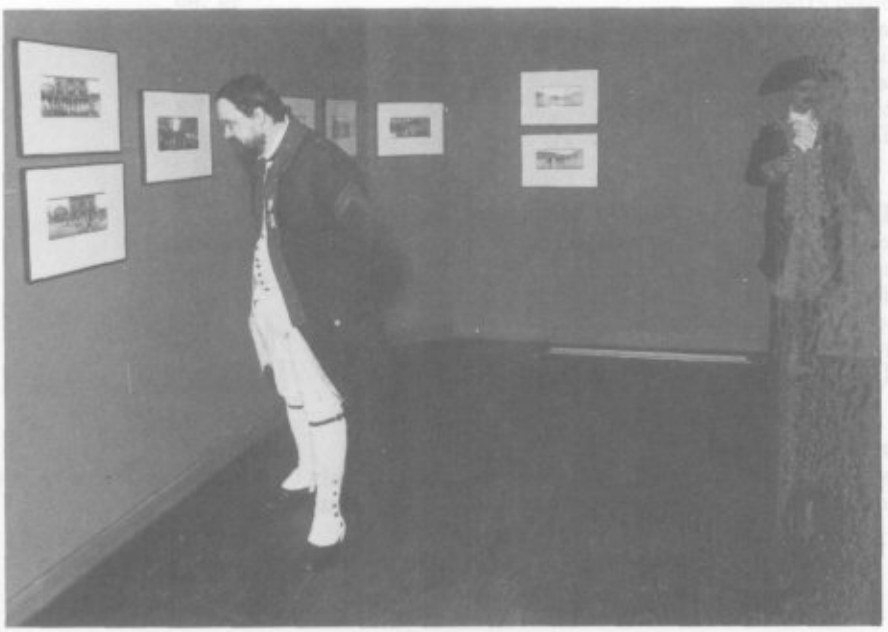

An exhibit of contemporary photographs by Allan Janus, commemorating the visit of the First Maryland Regiment to Paris and Versailles for the bicentennial of the Treaty of Paris, was hung by the Library's Prints and Photographs Division.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Combined Balance Sheets—All Funds
June 30, 1984

ASSETS		
Cash and marketable securities—at cost or donated value	$5,990,144	(1)
Accounts receivable	96,817	
Inventories—at lower of cost or market value	11,101	
Prepaid expenses	29,769	
Real estate and equipment—at cost less depreciation of $146,178	3,381,593	(2)
Interfund net receivable	64,858	
Museum and library exhibits	3	
Total Assets	9,574,285	
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	105,799	
Mortgage payable	15,000	
Deferred revenue	75,602	
Interfund net payable	64,858	
Fund balances	9,313,026	
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	$9,574,285	

(1) Market value $6,140,355.
(2) It is the policy of the Society to record depreciation only on a small portion of its real estate which is leased to others and on office furniture and equipment.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1984

General Fund

REVENUE:	
Dues	$ 106,168
Contributions	158,632
Legacy income	5,256
Grants from city, county and state governments	117,010
Investment income	468,115
Sales and service fees	46,344
Admissions	11,622
Auctions	13,635
Antique show	50,235
Other income	33,135
Total Revenue	1,010,152
EXPENSES:	
Gallery and museum	148,042
Library, prints and manuscripts	139,216
Publications	47,389
Public relations, development and fund raising	101,439
Education	29,053
Building operations	303,574
Administrative and general	278,583
Total Expenses	$1,047,296

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1984

GENERAL FUND:		
Revenue	$1,010,152	$
Expenses	1,047,296	
Excess of expenses over revenue before legacies	(37,144)	
Legacies	50,443	
Fund balance at beginning of year	(10,044)	
Add interfund transfer	204,627	
Fund balance at end of year		207,882
PLANT FUND:		
Fund balance at beginning of year	2,846,719	
Additions—net of depreciation	48,261	
Fund balance at end of year		2,894,980
ENDOWMENT FUNDS:		
Contributions, gains and losses on sales of investments and other income	855,867	
Custodial and investment management fees	38,320	
Excess of revenue over expenses	817,547	
Fund balance at beginning of year	5,287,841	
Deduct interfund transfers	(254,627)	
Fund balance at end of year		5,850,761
PUBLICATIONS FUND:		
Revenue	51,498	
Expenses	48,273	
Excess of revenue over expenses	3,225	
Fund balance at beginning of year	16,251	
Fund balance at end of year		19,476
LATROBE PROJECT:		
Revenue	70,952	
Expenses	86,725	
Excess of expenses over revenue	(15,773)	
Fund balance at beginning of year	77,795	
Fund balance at end of year		62,022
MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL FUNDS:		
Revenue	444,873	
Expenses	450,965	
Excess of expenses over revenue	(6,092)	
Fund balances at beginning of year	282,258	
Add transfers between funds	1,739	
Fund balances at end of year		277,905
Total Fund Balances at End of Year		$9,313,026

NOTE: The foregoing financial statements have been prepared by the Treasurer of the Maryland Historical Society from the report for the year ended June 30, 1984, submitted by independent public accountants. Requests for copies of this report should be addressed to the Treasurer, Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, MD., 21201.

The Ships of Federalist Baltimore: A Statistical Profile

GEOFFREY GILBERT

IT IS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY WHY historians of Baltimore and other major American seaports have for so long neglected the richest source of information extant on ships and shipowners in the Federalist era—a series of "certificates of registry" issued in each customs district under an act of Congress of September 1, 1789. Under that law, owners of vessels over 20 tons trading overseas were required to have them "registered" in order to be eligible for the preferential tonnage duties allowed on domestic shipping by a congressional act of July 20, 1789. Each certificate of registry was to specify the following: the name, rig, and dimensions of the vessel, the name, occupation, and residence of the ship's owner(s), the name of its captain (or "master"), the year and place of its construction, and its tonnage. To illustrate, the first Baltimore certificate was issued on October 6, 1789, to James Clarke, a merchant of the port, on his 275-ton ship *Samson*, built at Baltimore in 1786. It was a three-masted vessel with one and one-quarter decks, measuring 89 feet long, 26½ feet wide, and 13¼ feet deep. Its master was Thomas Moore.[1]

Nearly 400 such certificates were issued at Baltimore port from October of 1789 to October 1793. By the latter date the nature and tempo of Baltimore's foreign trade were beginning to change, reflecting the outbreak of war in Europe. Neutral trading and privateering soon came to dominate the port's commerce. Hence the four-year mark is a logical cutoff point for this study. The certificates of registry, now held at the National Archives in Washington, provide the basis for a surprisingly detailed analysis of the composition and construction of Baltimore shipping. What follows, then, is a statistical profile of the Baltimore-based ships trading overseas in the first years of the Republic.[2]

The basic "population" of oceangoing vessels registered at Baltimore from 1789 to 1793 numbers 267. Actually, 393 certificates were issued at the port in that period, but 22 were for vessels which on close examination appear to belong to other ports (for example, the "*Silas & Sally*, of Philadelphia," owned by two declared Philadelphians) and another 104 were re-registrations of vessels already registered at the port. Re-registration was mandated by law whenever a vessel was substantially altered or its ownership changed hands. To include re-registered vessels in the profile of a port's shipping would obviously be double-counting.

Another pitfall to be avoided is to regard the figure of 267 as a cumulative total of vessels actually plying the foreign trade of Baltimore by the fall of 1793. In reality the number must have been something less than 267. A ship register typically records only *additions* to—or reshufflings of equity in—a port's stock of shipping over time, not subtractions from it through sales away from the port, captures at sea, or other maritime disasters. Lacking full information on *losses* of shipping, we cannot know by how much the figure of 29,097 total tons for the 267 registered vessels overstates Baltimore's true shipping capacity by 1793—only that, to some extent, it does.

What then of the foreign-trading ships of Federalist Baltimore? Our profile begins with Table 1, which provides a breakdown of the 267 vessels by vessel type. If the pattern of vessel registration at Baltimore was typical of the major ports, it tends to

Dr. Gilbert is Associate Professor of Economics at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, N.Y.

bear out Howard Chapelle's judgment that "by 1790, if not earlier, the schooner was the national rig of both the United States and Canada." Schooners were by far the most numerous class of vessels registered at Baltimore in this period. Their prominence in the Baltimore register should come as no surprise, however. Almost from the time of their introduction into colonial waters in the early eighteenth century, schooners had been threatening the supremacy of the older "sloop" in the coastal and Caribbean trades. With two masts rather than one, the schooner's sail arrangement was more flexible and manageable by a smaller crew than the sloop's, making the schooner cheaper to operate.[3]

The average tonnage of the 131 Baltimore-registered schooners was 65 tons. There was, however, wide variation in the tonnages of individual schooners. The smallest was *Ranger*, a 23-ton schooner built at an unspecified site in Maryland in 1792 and registered at Baltimore on November 5. The largest schooner, a behemoth of 171 tons, was *Polly* (one of several *Polly's* on the Baltimore register), built at Joppa, Maryland, in 1791 and registered on November 14. These two examples lend intuitive weight to an interesting statistical finding of this study: there was considerably more relative variation in size among schooners than for any other vessel type registered at Baltimore.[4]

A vessel of somewhat smaller dimensions and older usage in Maryland than the schooner was the sloop, of which 29 appear on the Baltimore register over the four-year period. Joseph Goldenberg has determined that "by the late 1760's, Maryland builders were launching three times as many schooners as sloops."[5] By the evidence of Baltimore registrations, this trend toward replacement of sloops by schooners probably continued through the 1780s. Eighty-four Maryland-built schooners were registered at Baltimore in 1789–93, and only ten Maryland-built sloops.

TABLE 1.
Baltimore-Registered Vessels, 1789–1793, by Type and Tonnage

Vessel Type	Number	Total Tonnage	Mean Tonnage
Ship	44	10,398	236.3
Bark	1	223	223.0
Snow	7	1,217	173.9
Brig	55	7,063	128.4
Schooner	131	8,556	65.3
Sloop	29	1,640	56.5
Total	267	29,097	

Source: Baltimore Certificates of Registry, Record Group 36, Bureau of Customs, National Archives.

Brigs and snows have been called the "typical ships of the middle decades of the eighteenth century." Those belonging to the port of Baltimore late in the century were probably engaged mainly in the transatlantic trade, although brigantines had been found useful in the U.S.–Caribbean trade as well. In size, these two vessels occupied a middle range between the smaller craft already discussed and the full-rigged, three-masted "ship." The only difference between the rigs of the snow and the brigantine, according to Chapelle, lay in the positioning of the spanker. But the snow was the larger vessel. At Baltimore it averaged 45 tons larger than the brig.[6]

That only one "bark" shows up in Table 1 is compelling evidence that in the postcolonial era Maryland shipbuilders ceased to build this older vessel type. The "ship," on the other hand, became an important product of the Baltimore shipyards and a mainstay of the port's foreign trade. A larger fraction of the total shipping tonnage registered at Baltimore from 1789 to 1793 was in the "ship" category than in any other. The smallest ship, by tonnage, was the 123-ton *Swift Packet*, built at Baltimore in 1791 and registered there by a partnership of Baltimore and Charleston merchants. It was a small ship in every respect, with length, breadth, and depth measurements below those of all other registered ships. At the other extreme, *Iris* was a 325-ton ship built at North Point, Maryland, in 1781 and registered by two Baltimore merchants in the fall of 1789. The vast majority of "ships" in the Baltimore fleet were—unlike *Swift Packet* and *Iris*—in the 200–300 ton range.

As to where the several hundred seagoing vessels of Federalist Baltimore were built, reasonably complete information is available in the certificates of registry, as sum-

marized in Table 2. About 60 per cent of the port's foreign shipping, in terms of vessel numbers and tonnage both, was of Maryland construction. This finding is broadly consistent with a number of earlier studies demonstrating that eighteenth-century American shipowners relied heavily on local, or at least regional, shipbuilders.[7]

Several reasons for preferring local ship construction come to mind. First, when merchants had vessels built "to order," they naturally preferred construction sites near enough to allow them some degree of personal oversight.[8] Second, a number of merchants were themselves engaged in shipbuilding as an adjunct to their main business. In the colonial period this had been more the exception than the rule, but in Maryland four merchants are known to have opened shipyards in the 1740s and 50s, and two—Charles Carroll and Samuel Galloway—built vessels there for their own trading use. Third, given that each port had its own distinctive pattern of commerce, requiring vessels of particular capacity, speed, and fittings, local builders might in time become specialized in the production of such vessel types. The economies resulting from standardization of output would tend to sustain an interdependency between buyers and local builders.

In Baltimore's early national shipping, the degree of reliance on local (Maryland) construction varied with vessel type. Over 60 per cent of the ship, snow, and schooner tonnage registered at Baltimore was Maryland-built. By contrast, less than half the brig tonnage and less than one-third of the sloop tonnage on the Baltimore register was of local construction. (The brigs came mainly from New England, the sloops from Virginia, New York, and New England.)

TABLE 2.
Baltimore-Registered Vessels, 1789–1793, by Place of Build

Place of Build	Number of Vessels	Registered Tonnage	Share of Total Tonnage
Baltimore	54	7,141	24.5%
Other Md.	100	10,251	35.2
Virginia	44	3,987	13.7
New England	41	4,209	14.5
Philadelphia	10	2,144	7.4
Other*	18	1,365	4.7
Total	267	29,097	100.0

Source: Baltimore Certificates of Registry, Record Group 36, Bureau of Customs, National Archives.

* Includes Bermuda, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, and "U.S."

A point worth noting in Table 2 is the heavy extent to which Maryland's premier port still relied on construction sites *elsewhere* in the state to supply her with seagoing vessels in the early Federalist era. Joppa, Choptank River, Swan Harbor, Somerset County, Miles River or Talbot County, Vienna, Wye River—these are some of the Maryland sites mentioned more than once in the certificates. Eastern Shore shipyards outproduced those on the Western Shore (outside Baltimore County) more than three to one in this period, if Baltimore registrations are a reliable indicator. Eastern Shore yards apparently were specialized in schooners and sloops, though they produced all vessel types except the snow, judging by the Baltimore register.

Our profile of Baltimore shipping is incomplete without some consideration of the "age characteristics" of that shipping. Were the vessels registered at Baltimore from 1789 to 1793 generally of recent construction? Is there a relationship between site of construction and vessel vintage when registered at Baltimore? Were certain vessel types acquired in newer condition than others? The answers are not entirely clearcut, but certain generalizations can be offered. In the first place, vessels registered at Baltimore tended, as the years passed, to be of newer and newer construction. In the final three months of 1789, vessels in "newly built" condition (specifically, built in either 1789 or 1788) constituted only 13 per cent of the total registrations. In 1790 vessels that newly built (i.e., built in either 1790 or 1789) represented 44 per cent of the total; in 1791, 56 per cent; in 1792, 58 per cent; and in 1793 (up to October), 59 per cent.[10]

Closely related to the preference for newly-built acquisitions of shipping was the preference for local construction noted earlier. Better than three out of every four newly-built vessels placed on the Baltimore register from 1790 to the end of the period

were from Maryland shipyards. On the other hand, "used shipping" registered at Baltimore after 1789 was far less likely to be a Maryland product: less than half the vessels two years old or older when registered were Maryland-built. The oldest "used" Maryland vessels on the register were the ship *Iris*, mentioned above, the schooner *Martha*, built at Baltimore, the schooner *Saint Patrick*, built in "Maryland" (site unspecified), and the schooner *Betsy*, built in Vienna—all constructed in 1781.

Virginia-built vessels were, next to those of Maryland construction, the "newest" on the Baltimore shipping register. Nearly half the 44 Virginia vessels were of "0–1 year" vintage when registered at Baltimore. Indeed, if one were to speak of "Chesapeake-built" shipping, fully 94 per cent of the "new" ships registered at Baltimore after 1789 would be in that category. In sharp contrast, vessels of New England construction were preponderantly in the "used ship" category when acquired at Baltimore—perhaps a testament to their durability. In the registrations of late 1789 there are sixteen New England vessels; fifteen are vintage 1787 or older (i.e., "used"), including the oldest vessel registered in the entire period, the 99-ton brig *Tryal*, built in Massachusetts (site unspecified) in 1761. Twenty-three more New England-built vessels appear on the Baltimore shipping register in 1790–93, of which all but three are at least two years old.

Philadelphia-built ships, like those of New England construction, were generally not fresh off the blocks when acquired at Baltimore. Of the ten Philadelphia-built vessels registered at Baltimore in 1789–93, eight were what we have termed "used" (at least two years old). None, however, approached the venerable *Tryal* in longevity. The oldest Philadelphia ship on the register is the 294-ton *Birmingham*, built in 1784 and acquired by Baltimore merchants William Patterson and Nicholas Sluby late in 1791. (They in turn sold it to fellow merchant James Clarke in early 1793.)

Certain vessel types tended to be of much newer construction than others when registered at Baltimore. This is particularly true of schooners. Sixty per cent of those registered in 1789–93 were built within the same period. Ships, too, were predominantly of new construction when acquired by Baltimore shipowners—52 per cent were built in the registration period. For the other two classes of vessels registered in significant numbers at Baltimore—brigs and sloops—the picture is markedly different. Only 33 per cent of the brigs and 17 per cent of the sloops were built within the 1789–93 interval.

A useful, if cautionary, note on which to close this profile of Baltimore shipping would be to assess a widely accepted view of the shipbuilding industry at Baltimore on the basis of evidence from the certificates of registry. A leading expert on the history of American shipbuilding, while conceding the "technical competence" of Baltimore's builders, as exhibited in the *Constellation* and the *Chesapeake*, two famous frigates built there at the turn of the century, nonetheless concludes that their "chief products" were "rakish, fast-sailing Baltimore clipper brigs and schooners." Another maritime historian, Samuel Eliot Morison, generalizes to the same effect: "The big ships of [the Federal period] were built in Philadelphia and Europe; the small, fast clipper schooners and brigs, on Chesapeake Bay." The implication of these statements (and the common view) is that shipbuilders at Baltimore and around the Chesapeake were fully engaged in the production of small, fast-sailing craft, deferring to more distant shipyards in the production of "big ships."[11] Yet the facts, as revealed in the Baltimore shipping register, indicate otherwise. In the first years of the Republic, shipbuilders in the Baltimore vicinity actually were more committed to the production of *large* vessels than smaller ones, if total tonnage is the criterion. The tonnage of "ships" built in and around Baltimore in 1789–93 and registered at that port in the same period exceeded the *combined* tonnage of brigs and schooners built and registered there. This is not to say that by the 1790s Baltimore was the equal of Philadelphia in either quantity or quality of ships produced—only that the capacity of its shipyards to turn out big oceangoing vessels was much greater than we have hitherto been led to believe.

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2. For a complementary study focused more on the ownership side of Baltimore shipping in this period, see Geoffrey Gilbert, "Maritime Enterprise in the New Republic: Investment in Baltimore Shipping, 1789–1793," *Business History Review* 58 (1984): 14–30.
3. Chapelle, *History of American Sailing Ships* (New York, 1935), p. 221; Joseph Goldenberg, *Shipbuilding in Colonial America* (Charlottesville, Va., 1976), p. 78.
4. The statistician's measure of relative dispersion about the mean when dealing with separate sets or classes of data, is the "coefficient of variation," defined as the standard deviation of the sample divided by the sample mean. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the tonnage of Baltimore-registered schooners is higher than that for any other rig. Specifically, the CV's for the six vessel types listed in Table 1 are, respectively, 16.9%, 0%, 28.6%, 27.8%, 43.0% (schooners), and 26.7%. More detailed data is available from the author on request.
5. Goldenberg, *Shipbuilding*, p. 79.
6. Ralph Davis, *The Rise of the English Shipping Industry in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (Newton Abbot, 1962), p. 77; Charles Crittenden, *The Commerce of North Carolina, 1763–1789* (New Haven, 1936), p. 10; Goldenberg, *Shipbuilding*, p. 79; Chapelle, *Sailing Ships*, p. 16.
7. Goldenberg, *Shipbuilding*, Tables 8, 9, 17, 32, 33, 50; Crittenden, *Commerce of North Carolina*, p. 14: Samuel Eliot Morison, *Maritime History of Massachusetts, 1783–1860* (Boston, 1921), pp. 97–98; Bernard and Lotte Bailyn, *Massachusetts Shipping, 1697–1714: A Statistical Study* (Cambridge, Mass., 1959), pp. 84–85, 102–109.
8. Morison, *idem*. Goldenberg, *Shipbuilding*, p. 90, notes the desire of some merchants to be able to inspect the caulking of a new hull before the builder coated the vessel's underside with a tar-and-hair mix and then sheathed it with fir boards.
9. Goldenberg, *Shipbuilding*, pp. 72, 118.
10. The low figure for 1789 appears less anomolous when it is realized that many, perhaps most, of the registrations in those months were in the nature of an initial enumeration of the port's existing stock of shipping, rather than a record of acquisitions of shipping, as is the case from 1790 onward. Acquired shipping would normally tend to be of newer vintage than the average of an existing stock of shipping.
11. John G. B. Hutchins, *The American Maritime Industries and Public Policy, 1789–1914: An Economic History* (Cambridge, Mass., 1941), p. 183; Morison, p. 99.

John E. Owens: The People's Comedian from Towsontown

THOMAS A. BOGAR

ALMOST EXACTLY 100 YEARS AGO, Marylanders mourned the death of a favorite son from Towsontown who had gained wealth, international acclaim, and the hearts of millions of devoted theatregoers from Maine to California during the mid-nineteenth century. His name was John E. Owens, but most of his followers and friends knew him as Solon Shingle, the title of his most famous role (in J. S. Jones's *The People's Lawyer*, which he played over 2000 times and which alone earned him over $250,000).

One of the most popular comedians of his time, Owens relied for comic effect upon an engaging personality, flexible features, comical and somewhat exaggerated physicalization, and the distinct individualizing of each of his characters. While known primarily for Solon Shingle and for Caleb Plummer in Dion Boucicualt's *Dot*, he also created other lifelike characters (a total of 447 in his career) that were remarkable in their detailed realism.

During his acting career, Owens developed a quiet, natural style which followed trends away from the crudely overdone stereotypes of earlier comedians. While the majority of his early roles were broad, farcical figures, he later refined his characterizations and played successfully roles which required subtle touches of pathos.

Relying upon his own acting ability rather than upon any humor inherent in the generally poorly-written scripts he selected, Owens added to each role unique eccentric mannerisms and speech patterns, derived from careful study of people in his vast travels while touring the U.S. Critics spoke repeatedly of the detailed realism in his characters and the warmth of his infectious humor.

He clearly relished being on stage, and related easily and directly to his audiences, a rapport which earned him frequent mention as an "unctuous" actor—one with an engaging, ingratiating nature which caused audiences to love him and stay loyal to him. His entry upon a stage often created a pitched excitement from the audience, which freely cheered approval.

Owens' baronial home in Towsontown, Aigburth Vale, provided both a gathering place for notable theatrical, literary and political figures, and a welcome summer rest each year from Owens' extensive touring. (In his career he played in 68 different cities and towns across the U.S. and England.) The impressive mansion, on Aigburth Road in Towson, still stands today. Built in 1868 by the noted architectural firm of Niernsee and Nelson, and regarded as perhaps the finest actor's residence in the country at that time, it is currently under Landmarks Preservation study by Baltimore County.

Known primarily as a "Yankee" performer—one who played comic rural figures who shrewdly commented on the foibles and pretensions of citified folk—Owens came to Baltimore's Holliday Street Theater frequently during the early 1840s while learning his craft in an apprenticeship with William E. Burton, one of the most respected comedians of the day, in Philadelphia. From Burton Owens learned how to use his own flexible features, voice, different postures, walks and mannerisms to hu-

Thomas A. Bogar received his doctorate in theatre history from Louisiana State University and currently teaches at Seneca Valley H.S. in Germantown, Md. This article is excerpted from his dissertation, "The Theatrical Career of John E. Owens (1823–1886)."

FIGURES 1 AND 2.
John E. Owens and his wife, Mary C. Stevens Owens.

morous effect, as well as how to play to an audience and how to control comic timing. During this time he also acted with a number of major stars of the period, both comedians and tragedians: Edwin Forrest, James Hackett, William Macready, Joshua Silsbee, and others.

From Dion Boucicault, Noah Ludlow, and Sol Smith, three of the most respected theatre managers in New Orleans, Owens learned astute practices of management, which he used successfully in managing several Baltimore theatres during the late 1840s and 1850s. Baltimore audiences knew they could depend on Owens for quality performances which featured strong supporting companies (instead of just a strong star, as was common practice), in popular productions. He not only cast his plays well, but oversaw all details of handsomely mounted productions and of audience comfort. He was one of the first all-powerful producer-directors of the century.

Manager Owens had an eye for a hit, and produced, directed, and performed in several of the nation's most successful productions of the 1850s. His staging of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1855 was the first it received below the Mason-Dixon line, a highly controversial undertaking at that time. Yet his most significant success came in 1864, when he established a national reputation with a record-breaking New York long run as Solon Shingle.

His first star billing in Baltimore came in 1844 when he signed a contract with Edmund Peale of the Baltimore Museum for fourteen dollars a week and two benefits (at which the star received the night's entire box office). Located on the northwest corner of Calvert and Baltimore Streets, the Museum was the home primarily of exhibitions of freaks, monstronsities, and such curiosities as stuffed birds and a live bear, with a lecture hall-cum-theatre upstairs. Owens was decidely unenthusiastic about the environment. On that little stage, however, eventually appeared some of the greatest talent of the century, among them J. B. Booth, E. L. Davenport, J. W. Wallack, Charlotte Cushman, Fanny Wallack, and Thomas "Daddy" Rice, the original "Jim Crow".

During 1844 and 1845 at the Museum, Owens played 113 different roles in comedies, farces, and domestic dramas. The Baltimore *Sun* gave him consistently good notices and remarked that "Mr. Owens, a

pupil of Burton, is equal, if not superior to his tutor."[1] Returning to the Museum the following season, Owens drew crowded audiences nearly every night; the *Sun* noted periodically that he had begun to attract a sizable and loyal popular following in the city. Reviewers began to speak of "Owens houses"—enthusiastic, laughing, applauding crowds jammed to the rafters.

After a season in New Orleans, Owens returned to the Baltimore Museum in September, 1847. It had been thoroughly renovated and enlarged, including cushioned seats, private boxes, a larger gallery, and new scenery by the noted scenic artist Charles S. Getz (upon whom Owens would later rely when managing, and who became a lifelong friend). Despite competition from Edwin Forrest at the nearby Holliday Street theatre, Owens was "nightly greeted by crowded audiences."[2] Among the forty-six new roles he played this season was the title role in John Poole's comedy, *Paul Pry*.

The play itself, typical of those Owens undertook, is a chronicle of complications complete with confused identities, men hidden in ladies' closets, and secret love letters.[3] Pry is the play's chief device for moving the plot along, as he makes a profession of eavesdropping, lurking, and intruding into everyone's lives, eternally blurting out "I hope I don't intrude" after he has blundered into someone's home. Among his "accomplishments" is the climactic moment of the play: spending a half-hour retrieving a packet of incriminating letters which an odious aunt had thrown down a dry well.

FIGURE 3.
Owens as *Paul Pry*.

In November, 1848, Owens rented the small Howard Athenaeum on the northeast corner of Charles and Baltimore Streets, announcing that he would shortly open it with "a strong and efficient company."[4] Wise selection of company members and their roles, and good word-of-mouth advertising paid off, for "the public responded to the undertaking by cramming the house nightly."[5] Patrons enjoyed the same sort of theatrical fare they had been used to: farces and light comedies, with occasional extravaganzas and "thrilling dramas," all for an admission price of twenty-five cents. Manager Owens also interspersed musical performers with his dramatic offerings.

By the end of the season, in addition to getting married (to Mary C. Stevens, daughter of an established Baltimore merchant, John G. Stevens), Owens had expanded his theatrical domain in Baltimore by becoming half owner of the Museum, with total control over the acting and mounting of all productions. He redecorated the lobby and bar area downstairs and ordered new scenery. In addition to his stock company, he engaged a number of stars of the day. For each night's four-hour performance (two main pieces, a farce afterpiece, and olio performers between acts), he rehearsed his casts two hours. Bills were changed nightly, or at the most ran three or four nights.

For the next season, Owens expanded the Museum to well over 500 seats and made a variety of improvements for audience comfort. He attempted to keep the social level and behavior of his audiences unimpeachable—not an easy task at mid-century—by providing amenities which few theaters outside of New York possessed. Numerous reviewers began to speak of "fashionable" houses as well as large ones in his theaters, so his efforts were apparently well aimed. During this season Owens acted as well as

managed, adding a number of leading comic roles which he would keep in his repertory for the rest of his career.

Becoming the sole owner of the Museum in January, 1850—and thus exercising total financial as well as artistic control—Owens renamed it the "Baltimore Museum and Gallery of Fine Arts." With the support of Getz in his absence, he even played occasional engagements out of town. Until December, 1852, Owens provided his Baltimore audiences with popular light comedies, and they responded by giving him an "even run of prosperity."[6]

Owens made his Broadway debut in December, 1850, and found that production, *David Copperfield*, such a hit that he brought it to his Baltimore Museum in 1851, where it enjoyed a successful run.

In January, 1853, Owens sold the Museum for a profit to Henry C. Jarrett, who managed a number of theaters elsewhere in the country, and took a year off from acting and managing to prepare and present a series of comic travel lectures based on his 1852 ascent of Mont Blanc in Switzerland, the first American to do so for nearly twenty years.

Returning to Baltimore's Holliday Street Theater in December, 1854, Owens was greeted by full houses and critics as "undoubtedly one of the best living comedians."[7] He chanced to see a notice in the *Sun* announcing the availability of the Howard Athenaeum (Now renamed the Charles Street Theatre). He leased it and recruited for it a superb stock company.

But tastes were changing, and this undertaking yielded only sagging box office receipts, despite frequent promptings by the *Sun* to attend "this elegant little theatre."[8] By March, 1855, finances were so poor that Owens decided to risk the possible alienation of his southern audience and bring to Baltimore the most successful production of the New York season: the George C. Howard family in George L. Aiken's adaptation of the Stowe novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (with "Little Cordelia" Howard as Little Eva).

Owens' lawyer and friends implored him to forego this hazardous undertaking, warning him that "the people will tear the theatre down or do you personal injury."[9] Owens remained undaunted. He took the title role himself and opened the production on April 16, 1855. The town went "wild with delight and admiration; this success retrieved the heavy losses of the season. (Demonstrating) no sectional feeling in regard to the play, . . . Baltimoreans accepted it as given, packed the house, and thus filled the hitherto attenuated treasury," his wife recalled.[10]

On October 22, 1856, Owens played for his Museum audience his first impersonation of what would become his most famous role: Solon Shingle. For eight highly successful years he toured this role and others to dozens of cities, including New Orleans, Boston, Washington, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, occasionally touching base in Baltimore—all the while successfully skirting the Civil War's theatrically devastating effect. (While his private sentiments were Southern sympathies, he kept them to himself.)

The story of *The People's Lawyer* concerns the attempt by Hugh Winslow, a wealthy and respected merchant, to conceal a forgery.[11] He attempts to force his clerk, Otis, to lie, but Otis refuses and is fired.

FIGURE 4.
Owens as Solon Shingle in *The People's Lawyer*.

Winslow then contrives to frame Otis and induces a weak-willed gadabout employee, John Ellsley, to plant his watch on Otis and cry theft. When the watch is discovered on Otis and he is arrested, all seems lost until the brilliant-but-humble people's lawyer, Robert Howard, forces Ellsley to confess, clears Otis, and incidentally marries Otis' sister Grace. Solon Shingle is called upon as a witness, having been hanging around the legal offices in search of his runaway team and a "stolen" barrel of applesauce (which had actually fallen off of his tailgate).

Shingle delights the audience with rustic bewilderment at all these legal goings-on, yet manages to outsmart the prosecutor, a city-slicker named Tripper. To all questions and situations Shingle replies "Jest so," and rambles in undiluted digression. When he is ordered to appear in court, for example, he replies:

> Jest so, thank you; tell the judge I'll be there. Whenever I hear that bell, I always consate there is trouble brewing. Whenever I du go tu court, I'm sure to make some alfired mistake or other; once I drove right straight intu the prisoner's stall; they told me tu stand up, and I did; they asked me if I had anything tu say: says I, no; and while they were trying me, the real rogue got off. I don't like tu make a speech among these law chaps. They work a feller up so he don't know his head from his heels; I shall have law enough, I s'pose; for that John Ellsley won't marry my Nabby (his daughter). I consider her as good as married and now her markit's spoiled; my darter and the applesarse may work for the lawyers yet—jest so.[12]

Owens' interpretation of the character was based entirely and exactingly upon the overseer of his Aigburth Vale estate, a man named Perker. A reviewer for *Atlantic Monthly* who knew the overseer was astounded at the degree of fidelity to nature of Owens' performance:

> Perker was the name by which we knew him in the days of the Baltimore farm, but in the Broadway Theatre he was known as Solon Shingle. No matter what his name, however, it was Perker we saw,—Perker from broad-brimmed felt hat to the somewhat too large cowhide boots. Ox-team, old white coat, tobacco, impertinent curiosity, queer speech, and all the rest of that old fellow's physical and mental fibre, were there reproduced before us. (Owens) had crept into the very nature of the man, catching the trick of moving each spring and lever of his thought, habit and feeling. (Solon Shingle) was a living photograph, . . . a literal translation into comedy of Perker, (a character) such as no living American player but Owens could elaborate.[13]

Critics described Solon Shingle as the type whom

> . . . everyone who has been in that vague place, "the country," must remember. He dresses shabbily, but carries fifty-dollar bills in his pocket; he makes absurd and ridiculous remarks, but yet has a fund of shrewd sense; he seems very simple and yet is not to be easily outwitted. (He appears) newly arrived from the country, and the aura of the country grocery-store and the cattle market (hangs) about him, . . . evident in the quid of tobacco in his mouth, the big spectacles upon a nose glowing with toddy, and a habit of spitting, all exaggerated by peculiar dress, walk, and inevitable green umbrella.[14]

Having achieved resounding successes in Baltimore and elsewhere, Owens had yet to firmly establish his name in New York; this he did when he opened as Solon Shingle at the Broadway Theatre on August 29, 1864. From opening night he established himself as a major attraction in a hit that packed the Broadway each night, with even standing room unavailable by curtain time. 270 nights later he had broken the record for longest run in that city or any other, and had left for London, where he received notices almost as hyperbolic as those in the states. The *New York Times* had called his performance "the greatest eccentric characterization on the American stage;"[15] the *Herald* judged it "one of the finest specimens of character acting ever seen."[16] Even the famous Edwin Forrest attended and pronounced it "one of the most brilliant and complete triumphs of genius" he had ever witnessed.[17]

Thus, from an apprenticeship on a tiny stage in Baltimore, John Owens had carried his career to New York and England. From

this point until his death in 1886 at his home in Towsontown, he was reverently regarded as among the foremost comedians of his day. When, in the 1870s, he put together one of the first "combination" companies—precursors of our modern packaged touring companies, which were spawned by rapid rail expansion—that too was financially and artistically successful.

Yet, despite the adulation from residents of cities across the nation, Owens always held Baltimoreans first in his heart. Whenever he returned there, to perform or just to rest at Aigburth Vale, they sought him out and hailed him as a personal friend. (His wife's *Memories of John E. Owens*, 1892, abounds with anecdotes of humorous moments shared with local residents.) Until his death at Aigburth in 1886, he remained a performer *sui generis*. Harford County may have claimed the tragic Booths, but Towsontown had the people's comedian, John E. Owens.

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John Widgeon: Naturalist, Curator and Philosopher

FRANK W. PORTER III

In 1920 Dr. Francis D. Nicholas, Dean of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, chronicled the growth and development of this venerable organization. He cited the contributions of a long list of distinguished Baltimoreans, including Robert Gilmor, Julius T. Ducatel and Charles Carroll, just a few members of the old Maryland families. One important name was missing. John Widgeon, who had served "faithfully and unobtrusively" as the janitor and custodian of the Maryland Academy of Sciences for nearly sixty years, was an invaluable contributor to its early development. Born into slavery and entirely self-educated, John Widgeon made notable achievements as a naturalist, museum curator, collector, and philosopher. He was "industrious, . . . self-respecting, . . . educated and intelligent," observed an editor of The Baltimore *Sun*, "and has acquired all of his learning by dint of his own intelligence."[1] Like so many other Black Americans, however, the accomplishments of John Widgeon are not widely known. "Due to the inadequate staff of the Maryland Academy of Sciences," lamented its Director, Frank A. Woodfield in 1937, "it has not been possible for us to compile the work of 'Uncle' John, any more than it has been possible to do so in the case of other noteworthy persons who have made valuable contributions to this institution."[2] It is time that his achievements, both personal and scientific, be told.

Dr. Porter is Director of the American Indian Research and Resource Institute at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania. He would like to thank Richard J. Cox and C. A. Weslager for their editorial assistance. This study was supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The findings and conclusions do not necessarily represent the view of the Endowment.

Because so much of Widgeon's work was related to the Maryland Academy of Sciences, it would be helpful to summarize the early history of this institution. The Maryland Academy of Sciences has the distinction of being the oldest Academy of Sciences in the United States. The Academy began in Charles Willson Peale's first museum. In 1797, when the Peale museum was temporarily closed, a group of people, "who had enjoyed the hospitality of the museum for meetings and reunions, formed an academy of sciences to keep alive in Maryland the interest in natural history which had been developed by Charles Willson Peale, and to assist in reopening his museum." The Academy continued its activities, and in 1819, under the leadership of Dr. Horace M. Hayden, several smaller societies merged with the Academy, broadening its activities to include sciences other than natural history. Prior to 1856, the Academy held its meetings above a stable in lower Baltimore, in an old building at the corner of St. Paul and Centre Streets (later known as the Chimney Corner restaurant), and in the homes of its various members. In 1856, the meetings were held in the Athenaeum, as the Academy attempted to create a natural history division for the Maryland Historical Society. The Academy later met at the University of Maryland until it obtained a building on Saratoga Street. Although the Academy flourished, the City of Baltimore purchased their property to allow for the extension of Cathedral Street. In succession, the Academy occupied buildings on Centre Street, at Franklin and Cathedral Streets, West Franklin Street, and north Charles Street.[3]

It was during the latter part of the nineteenth century that John Widgeon was entrusted with collecting, classifying and ex-

hibiting many of the important collections of the Academy. Widgeon's position at the Academy was not unusual in that it reflected a role characteristic of many Blacks in the Deep South. One member of the Academy succinctly depicted this attitude:

> It is interesting to note that in all of the great Southern homes there is an old colored person, wise in the lore of many generations, who occupies a position of respectful service to those who had known him all their lives. Probably in no other portion of the world has this relationship been developed; it is peculiar to the South, where Uncle or Auntie are wise councillors to the younger generation. At the Academy we have Uncle John, who has been a faithful attendant here during fifty-two years. All the difficulties of maintenance are naturally referred to him. He knows our properties and buildings as no one else will ever know them.[4]

Widgeon was much more than "Uncle" John. Dr. Philip T. Uhler, President of the Academy, was one man who fully recognized Widgeon's stature. Dr. Uhler was once asked, in reference to Widgeon, whether he had "an invaluable colored man?" Sensing the derogatory slant of the question, Dr. Uhler gave this answer which reflected his esteem for Widgeon:

> That man is a scientist. I don't know what we would do without him. He is a thoroughly trained and skilled collector. If we should lose him I don't know what we would do—don't know of a white man that could take his place. He has most unusual powers of observation. Nothing escapes him; and his memory is remarkable.[5]

An examination of Widgeon's early life reveals his proclivity to assume a sense of responsibility, a position of leadership, and thirst for knowledge.

John Widgeon was born on July 28, 1850 in a log cabin in Northampton County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and was raised on the farm of Robert C. Jacobs. He was proud of his ancestry. "My father was African," he observed, "and my great-grandmother was full-blooded Indian on my mother's side." His mother was the cook and "a favorite of the master, so he was not opposed to [Widgeon] gaining knowledge."[6] At an early age, Widgeon exhibited a strong interest in collecting and observing insects, snakes, lizards and many other specimens found in the fields near his home. Widgeon remained illiterate until the age of sixteen. During Reconstruction, a Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Dodson went south to help educate young Blacks. They taught Widgeon for two years, and although this was the extent of his formal education they instilled in him the invaluable lesson that knowledge is power.[7]

After living in Virginia for nearly twenty years, Widgeon moved to Baltimore in search of employment. This first year in Baltimore left a vivid impression. Widgeon recollected it "as the hardest and coldest winter" he ever lived through. Chesapeake Bay was frozen from Light Street Wharf to Annapolis. It was frozen so "you could drive a wagon down the Chesapeake Bay." Widgeon could not find work for about three months. Permanent jobs were difficult to find. Widgeon worked as a waiter in a boarding house on Liberty Street, a stevedore on a public wharf, and "odds and ends" whenever he could.[8]

One day while walking down the street, Widgeon was approached by a man who offered him a day's work. The man took him to the Maryland Academy of Sciences where Dr. Philip T. Uhler, then President, employed him for a few days to clean the building because they were expecting Otto Luger from Germany who was to take charge of the Academy. Widgeon worked for nearly two weeks. When he requested a permanent job, Dr. Uhler indicated they were indeed seeking a man, but he wanted a White man. "After a while he told me to keep on working until he told me to go," Widgeon recalled.[9] The following Spring Widgeon began to collect snakes, water bugs, and other specimens from Druid Hill Park. Thus began the notable career of this young Black.

Widgeon continued to work at the Academy and to add to his collection of natural history for five years. At that time the City of Baltimore assumed control of the Academy, and Widgeon was left without a job. Dr. Alfred E. Sharp, Treasurer of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, offered Widgeon employment in his store doing general

FIGURE 1.
John Widgeon.

work. Widgeon worked for Sharp & Dohme, assisting Charles E. Dohme, a chemist, in his laboratory. "If he was not there, I was," stated Widgeon, and "I worked my way from the scrub brush up to assistant chemist."[10] Widgeon stated: "What that great and good man did for me I shall never forget. For he did not treat me as a servant, but like a father in many instances."[11] He remained with Sharp & Dohme for sixteen years.

During this period, the Maryland Academy of Sciences remained inactive. When the Academy was finally able to purchase a house on Centre Street with money bequeathed to Dr. Uhler, Dr. Uhler asked Widgeon to return to the Academy and resume his collecting activities. Widgeon had to begin the collections anew. Apparently, the only collection which had remained intact was that of the birds. A Professor Smith, a member of the Academy, had kept this collection in the State Normal School until the Academy was once again in operation. Widgeon assumed a great deal of responsibility. "I collected specimens, arranged them, ran errands, and took care of the whole place," he recalled.[12] About two years after his return to the Academy, Widgeon was away on a collecting trip when Dr. Uhler sent for him to return immediately to Baltimore. A whale had been stranded in the Chesapeake Bay. A steamboat had hauled the whale to Cherrystone, Virginia. Widgeon was dispatched to procure the skeleton of the whale for the Academy. His arrival in Virginia was none too soon. Representatives from several other museums had converged on the scene to obtain the whale for their respective institutions.

A Captain Ranier had towed the whale to a nearby creek. Widgeon had been provided with $80.00 to purchase the whale, but the Captain demanded $100.00. Fortunately, Widgeon met a man whose mother had owned Widgeon's father during slave times. John explained that he was working for the Maryland Academy of Sciences, and had been entrusted to purchase the whale. This individual intervened on behalf of Widgeon and was able to buy the whale for $80.00. It took one week and the labor of five men to remove the meat from the bones. Every bone, except for one which was broken, was returned to the Academy.

This skeleton remained in the Academy for several years, but was later placed in the Library at Johns Hopkins University.[13]

Widgeon made several trips to the West Indies to obtain pieces of coral for the Academy. One of his most noteworthy achievements while in the West Indies was to ascend Blue Mountain Peak in Jamaica and take several photographs from its summit. In Jamaica, Widgeon made a large collection of coral. Because there was only one diver with any experience on the island, Widgeon had to learn diving himself to get the coral.[14]

In the early 1920s, the Maryland Academy of Sciences undertook a survey of Indian sites in the State. John C. Wrenshall directed the project, and John Widgeon performed the fieldwork.[15] As a result of this survey, sufficient information had been accumulated to warrant the compilation of a map on which "to base the study of Indian Archaeology in Maryland."[16] Matthew Page Andrews assumed the expense of acquiring for the Academy the entire personal Indian artifacts collection of Wrenshall. Because of a lack of funds and insufficient space in the building, the Academy was unable to exhibit to the general public this extensive collection of Indian artifacts and to prepare a map based on Widgeon's survey.

It was not until the 1930s that the Academy was in a position to prepare and publish a map of Indian sites in Maryland. Thelma Groth, an unemployed artist, requested work at the Enoch Pratt Library. Joseph L. Wheeler, Librarian, suggested that if she could find "some person of means to pay her salary for a couple of months, [he] would like very much to see an Indian history picture map drawn."[17] Groth recommended Mr. Lemuel T. Appold, who readily agreed to cover the cost of her salary. The map was drawn in the Maryland Department at the Enoch Pratt Library. Upon its completion, Groth submitted it to two or three people for criticism. Wheeler contacted the Maryland Academy of Sciences to see if they would be interested in assuming the cost of having plates made from the map. Frank A. Woodfield, the Director of the Academy, indicated this was "the type of work which is in the Academy's field" and agreed to finance the plates. Woodfield sent the map to Donald A. Cadzow for a critical review. William B. Marye, E. Ralston Goldsborough, and Alice L. L. Ferguson were also consulted. Ironically, Widgeon's extensive collections and notes were not used in the compilation of this map.[18]

Based on his surveys, Widgeon was able to note the presence of communal burials. Frank G. Speck, an anthropologist from the University of Pennsylvania, apparently had met Widgeon, and cited his findings:

> John Widgon [sic] reports findings these communal burials occasionally in his surveys, and his material is exhibited in the collections of the Maryland Academy of Sciences in Baltimore. He states that he has found indications of as many as seventy burials in one cluster. Occasionally, moreover, he discovers them in shell-heaps in which case he has made a most interesting observation, namely, that the shells are found turned with the concave side upward in shell-heaps containing burials. This, he thinks, was to prevent the entrance of rain and surface water as much as possible.[19]

Widgeon was also a philospher. Although only a small amount of his manuscripts have survived to the present, these papers reveal a man who truly understood the racial prejudice of his times. One of the most remarkable of these documents is entitled "John Widgeon To His People." It is worthy of reprinting here.

> It has been said that "All coons look alike."
>
> The color and habits of the common Raccoon is characterized by a short, stout body, pointed muzzle and moderately large tail.
>
> Those found in the United States is less then 2 feet long.
>
> The general color is light gray tinged and overlaid with a black tip of hair, and the under part gray without black tips of the same color, interspace being grayish white. The end of the muzzle whitish, and a black patch on its cheek and another behind the ear.
>
> It feeds on roots, birds and small animals, and oysters. (They are easily tamed. It is said that they dip their feet in water before eating, which is emblamatic of cleaniness).
>
> The Raccoon which is found in India is of

a brilliant red, head whitish, tail marked with brown rings. Curva[20] calls them the most beautiful of all coons.

The coon is a great fighter. When attracted by unskilled enemies he is more or less apt to gain a victory.

I have seen as many as five good dogs conquered by one.

They do not stand on their feet when fighting, but they lay down on their backs so as to have full use of their feet and claws.

So as we are called by their name, I don't think but what it would be right for us to scratch for our deliverance.

God said in His divine word, "Ask what you will in My name." He will give it.

The human coons do not ask for social rights, because that is a right which belongs to each man. But we do contend for equal rights before the law, which is a right that all men contend for.

It has been said that all coons look alike, so perhaps it is because people have not studied carefully the family from a zoological point of view, as have such men as Aristotle and Cuva and other great men of less renown.

Cuva after he had finished his investigation said that the coon of India was the most beautiful of all the known quadrupeds. He was looking from an external point in which he saw.

In the first place, white, black, yellow, gray, brown and red.

Since we have classed with them on account of color, I don't think that it was a true statement.

Since we have been mixed up with all of those colors, I think that those people which have been looking at us in this way must have an optical machine which will only show one color, and think that they won't do us any harm.

We will take another look at coons.

Just look how those who brought us to this country looked at us. They did see a difference in us. So if the statement is true which say that each generation is weaker and more wise, and if this is not true, their way of classifying was wrong, or else they made a terrible mistake in their classifications.

Let us look and see how they classed in the first place—field servants, cook, chambermaids, waiters, coachmen, valaes, blacksmiths, carpenter, engineers, railroaders, painters, fisherman, overseers on farms, clerks in stores.

They did not take all "coons" for the same kind of service. This is what I call perfect classifying.

They knew that all of them could not be trained to do the same thing, and so they took the right method to accomplish the best results.

In this advanced age some white men have not been able to see us yet. So I would suggest that such ones take a different view of us before coming to a first conclusion about us.

The result of the first classification has given some great men of our family.

Why it was those who knew our worth in this country (and hundreds of us was remembered in their master's wills, and not only them, but lefted it so that their offsprings should enjoy it for all time) understood us and other men don't today.

How did they class us? It was done in three ways: first, Honesty; second, Truthful, and third, Faithfulness.

And we still have friends who is using the same rule in classing us and they want to see us honored as men, because they knew that their father could see right and they want to see the off springs of those whom their father considered near and dear enjoy Life and Liberty, unmolested and also protected by law.

All though it has been said the colored coon has no rights that white man is bound to respect, this statement does not seem to hold good from the very fact if you would even go as far back as 1820 you will see then that those coons who had been given freedom, had rights of which the white people felt that they were sure to respect.

There were numbers of cases when the law had to see them protected in their lawful rights.

In such cases the coon could find help, even from ex–Governor Wise, of Va., and other great men of his class.

General Lee, one of the greatest Southern men that ever lived in that country, said that the human coon ought to be free, and that he had a right to have it, and he wanted them to have it. If free he wanted them to feel that they had a right to be protected in it, and that by law, regardless of color.

So if our wise Statesmen and Philosophers would throw away their prejudices they would see no love for wife, and no love for their children, but Love for all man kind. God has said that we should Love Him with all our hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Now, my brethren, let us remember that we do have friends and that we do have rights of which the white people feel that we are bound to be respected, and will do it just as sure as there is a just God in heaven.

I mean to say that every true American citizen will do it, or else they do not believe in the Declaration of Independence, which say that every man is entitled to those God-gave rights.

The founders of this country believe that God made all men to be free and equal, and they would not rest day or night until it was given.

We still have true and tried friends who will not be contented until every color of men shall enjoy freedom.

With all that the word stands for.

We have done good service in the past so let us continue for we have produced some good amongst us, as well as bad, which is not unusual. You will find good and bad everywhere.

We are not all murderers and thieves, robbers and rapers, and jail birds.

Why we have produced Astronomer Benjamin Banaker, Statesman Frederick Douglas, Preacher John Jaster, Educator Booker T. Washington, Lawyer H. Cummings and a Scientist.

So we have a great deal to be proud of if we are called coons. And if we are treated all right others will be proud of us in the future as they have been in the past.

What would you think of a Black Coon if he would discard his White band, which adds to his beauty? He would soon find that there would be no coon at all.

So we should decide to stay with our white friends because they admire our beauty.

I am sure that after this election the coon will find protection, because the coon knows where to build his house, not only for his own color, but for all of his friends. So let the dogs bark, the coon will be safe in the hollow of protection.[21]

Widgeon was also a very religious man. At the age of seventeen, he joined the Baptist Church. In Baltimore, he started his own congregation with only three members and soon had enough followers to build the Fairfield Baptist Church. It was in this church that the Master of Science degree was conferred upon Widgeon for his many contributions to the Maryland Academy of Sciences. "I had it framed the very day I got it and hung it in my house," Widgeon proudly stated.[22]

John Widgeon remained with the Academy until his death in 1937. Frank A. Woodfield praised Widgeon as "highly enthusiastic, despite the fact he was well over eighty, and to the day of his death never lost interest in the Academy."[23] "I have given my best days to the Academy of Sciences and to its interest in every respect," Widgeon remarked, "so what I have done will be seen and remembered hereafter."[24]

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The Jewish Board of Arbitration in Baltimore, The Early Years

LAURAINE LEVY KARTMAN

BALTIMORE CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR being one of the first cities in the United States to organize a Jewish Court of Arbitration. The specific need arose from the large influx of Jewish immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century. By 1890, more than four thousand Russians, mostly Jews, had settled on the eastern side of the city. They had been preceded by German Jews. By 1900, over ten thousand Russians outnumbered the more than two thousand people born in Poland and Italy and the country which is now called Czechoslovakia. Most of the immigrants began their new life in communities where they could use their own language. At first they built either synagogues or churches where services were held in their native tongue. Then each group established institutions to meet the needs of the newcomers such as aid societies, schools, fraternal organizations, newspapers, building and loan associations. At that time, the government did not yet operate in that sphere to any significant degree. The similar responses of ethnic groups stemmed from their similar needs and conditions.

One difference between the Jewish ethnic group and all others in Baltimore during this immigrant period was the inception of a Jewish Court of Arbitration to settle disputes among Jews. The rationale for it was that disputes among immigrant Jews were so often tied up with Jewish customs and traditions that their arising in public courts proved an embarrassment to the entire closely-knit Jewish community. Furthermore, it was seldom that a court unacquainted with Jewish law, Jewish customs, and Jewish tradition, was able to understand and adjudicate such disputes.

The immigrants brought their former way of life and world view with them when they came to America. Besides being steeped in "old world" ways of thinking, most of the East European Jews had an Orthodox religious frame of reference. In addition, they had problems adapting to a new society. As a result, by the first decade of this century there was an excess of litigation among the poor classes and generally among those who didn't have the benefit of a long residence in this country.

When a case of Jewish ethnicity with religious ramifications was heard in civil court, Judge John J. Dobler suggested to Louis H. Levin, a lawyer, a new method of adjudication of disputes between Jews. In 1912 a meeting was held in the Baltimore Talmud Torah Hall when the organization of the Jewish Court of Arbitration was proposed by Louis H. Levin. The proposal met with immediate favor and four Jewish organizations, the Federated Jewish Charities, United Hebrew Charities, Independent Order B'nai Brith and Independent Order of Brith Sholom joined to form the Jewish Court of Arbitration. Between 1914, when the Court held its first session, and 1929, nearly one thousand cases had been heard. The Jewish Board of Arbitration in Baltimore became a constituent agency of the Associated Jewish Charities after it was formed in 1921.

HISTORIC PRECEDENTS

The historic procedents for the Jewish Board of Arbitration, organized in Baltimore and other American cities as well, is the idea of arbitration or "shalom" (peace) which is one of the concerns of Jewish life

Lauraine Levy Kartman, L.C.S.W. is Music Therapist at Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore, Md., and Social Work Consultant in various Baltimore area nursing homes.

handed down for centuries. In many localities of Russia, Poland, Rumania, and other Jewish sections of Europe (until the emancipation of the Jews in the nineteenth century) no other tribunals were patronized except the Beth Din (Hebrew House of judgment), i.e. a rabbinic court of law, which arbitrated disputes. The rabbinic court of law had jurisdiction in civil, criminal, and religious matters. Records of some Beth Dins go back to the early Middle Ages.

The Beth Din itself was an outgrowth of the Sanhedrin in ancient Israel during the Temple Period. The Sanhedrin was an assembly of seventy-one ordained scholars that functioned as the Supreme Court and legislature. It disappeared from the Jewish scene before the end of the fourth century A.D. The original historical precedent of meting out justice goes back to Biblical times where the tribunal reportedly was established by Moses (Exodus 18:21–6). It subsequently was modified to meet the needs of the Jewish people. The idea of an ethnic court of justice was, therefore, a synthesis of previous precedents by the Jewish immigrant population in Baltimore after the turn of this century. It was set up as a Board of Arbitration to meet the pressing needs and issues of the day, as in former times.

How the Court Functioned

The aim of the court in Baltimore was to carry out the Jewish ideal of justice, simply and directly without the encumbrance of complicated procedures and without the publicity that can accompany court trials. Some of the essential characteristics established for this arbitration tribunal were as follows: "It was a court in which no man who is a member of the bar is ever permitted to sit as a judge; in which no lawyer is allowed to appear; where the only rules of evidence are those of common sense; the sessions of which are not guided by books of law. A court to the decisions of which both parties to every dispute agree in advance of the hearing; from the rulings of which appeals are practically never taken; a court without juries and without delays."[1]

In discussing the court, the Baltimore *Evening Sun* of February 3, 1925 stated, "One advantage of the arbitration system is that the judges or arbitrators may be chosen to suit the circumstances of each case coming before the court. The only rule is that no lawyer may be selected under any circumstances. If a question of the terms of a real estate lease is up for consideration, a real estate dealer may be chosen as one of the arbitrators. There are three appointed in each case. If the dispute involves an infraction of the Mosaic law, a rabbi may sit as one of the judges."[2] One of the three judges appointed by the directors of the court may, therefore, be a specialist along the lines of the case to be heard.

The early board of directors of the Arbitration Board were lawyers, Louis H. Levin, Lewis Putzel, and Sidney L. Nyburg. They constituted an advisory committee or Legal Aid Bureau which could furnish necessary free legal advice to persons who were unable to pay for the services. The first secretary of the Court of Arbitration was S. Richard Nathanson. He was an expert in the settlement of disputes and often he was able to help the parties reach an agreement in private hearing. Due to Mr. Nathanson's efforts, a public hearing before the arbitrators was often unnecessary.

The court didn't attempt to handle anything in the way of a criminal charge or hear divorce cases, though often it persuaded families who had quarreled to go home and try it over again. Any case could be brought before the Court of Arbitration except those in which the law of Maryland didn't permit arbitration, or those which obviously lacked merit.

The original cost in 1915 for the hearing of a case in the Jewish Court of Arbitration was twenty-five cents. By 1925, the court cost had increased to fifty cents, which was the fee charged by the messenger who delivered the nonbinding summons to the defendant. Because attorneys were not permitted, litigants did not pay legal fees.

When the court was in session, the litigants took an oath with their heads covered for religious reasons. The atmosphere subsequently was informal and cases were conducted in Yiddish or in English, or in both languages.[3] The arbitration hearings were open to the public, and parties presented their own cases. "The Court's chief merit was that it provided a tribunal that thor-

oughly understood the people who came before it, and was able to view their interest sympathetically. [Due to arbitration endeavors] disputes between employer and employee were settled without involving civil authorities. Husbands and wives were amicably reunited. Friendships were restored, and bitter enemies erased."[4] The Board conceived of itself not only as a body that dispensed justice but even more as a body that tried to make peace among the disputants.

Arbitration was rendered without delay, expense, or unnecessary publicity. In the first two and a half years the court handled 351 cases. From the very first, its verdicts were generally accepted. Only 10 percent of the litigants (thirty-five in all) refused to abide by the court's decision.

The Jewish Court of Arbitration is still active today to a reduced degree and is now the Mediation and Arbitration Board of the Baltimore Jewish Community Relations Council.

CLAIMS/DECISIONS 1915 TO 1925

The source material for the early Claims/Decisions of the Jewish Board of Arbitration in Baltimore is in the library of the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland. The earliest records available date back to 1915. Not all the case material was preserved; therefore the data available reflects only a sampling of the court's arbitration endeavors.

From the material available for the period of 1915 to 1925, a total of 101 cases falls into three broad categories, which are indicative of the problems and concerns of that era. Of significance also is that the claims were a reflection of the life–style and world view of the Jewish immigrant population.

The three categories delineated are Small Claims, Jewish "Traditional," and Other. The nature of small claims involving small debts is indicative of the humble occupations of the immigrants. Jewish Traditional Claims infer not only those cases concerning the orthodox faith but the culture that has evolved from it through the ages. These types of cases may overlap in other areas, but the criteria for the category was that the element of traditional Judaism was present. The last unit of demarcation, Other, refers to special cases that do not fit into either of the previous categories. The small number of cases that fall within the category "Other" reflects the comparatively minor significance of these issues in the Jewish community.

A breakdown of these three categories may be stated as follows:

NATURE OF CLAIMS

Number of:	*1915–1917*	*1918–1920*	*1921–1925*	*Total*
Small Claims	24	37	17	78
Jewish Traditional	6	6	4	16
Other	4	2	1	7
Total	34	45	22	101

SMALL CLAIMS

Of the total claims of this study of 1915 to 1925, the highest priority of the Jewish immigrant was given to small claims (78 cases). The litigants' claims reflect the nature of their humble occupations such as plumber, repairman, an operator of small business establishments such as grocery store and butcher. The amounts of the small debts reflect the economic conditions of the people as well as the valuation of the dollar in that period. For example, on May 28, 1918, a claim was made for "$6.00 which represents the value of a piece of oiled cloth defendants are alleged to have misplaced in moving." A larger claim made on April 23, 1918 was for a refund of $238.00 "which represents a deposit for steamship tickets which tickets are alleged not to have been procured by defendant." (The money was to be used to bring another immigrant over to America.) While the debts are small, they generally progressed upward monetarily during the period surveyed. On the lowest end of the spectrum, a decision in 1917 stipulated that the defendant had to pay the plaintiff $2.00. By 1925 the claims were more in the $50.00 to $100.00 range. Because the majority of claims were of the nature of small claims, it seems that one of the main functions of the Jewish Board of

Arbitration was to act as a type of settlement court, its decisions being more in the nature of a compromise between litigants.

Jewish Traditional

The most colorful cases of a specific ethnic nature are categorized as Jewish Traditional (16 cases) during the survey of 1915 to 1925. The concerns of the Jewish immigrants also reflect their problems of a specific cultural identity carried over from the Old World. This was a transition period in America where adapting to a new society still reflected traditional roots and concerns.

Of the sixteen cases with a traditional frame of reference, six were related to internal affairs of synagogues (involving rabbis, sextons, officers, a member, and a synagogue boundary). The next highest area of concern were issues relating to cemeteries (involving boundaries, real estate, and lots). Two cases involved alleged slander and "misrepresentation of facts" which evoke the Biblical injunction, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." The other three cases involve payment for loss of "tfillim" (objects worn by men in prayer), an issue of kosher meat (ritually clean according to Jewish dietary laws), and payment for "shadchen" (matchmaker) services.

In the case of "misrepresentation of facts" on July 10, 1917 a circular had been issued declaring, among many accusations against another person, that "a new Nicholas grew up in Baltimore." This was a great insult as it refers to Czar Nicholas the Second who dealt harshly with the Jews in Russia. The decision of the court was that the perpetrator of the circular "should call up (the person he maligned) and apologize because the whole thing was unfounded."

In the "shadchen" (matchmaker) case of January 19, 1918, the plaintiff wanted half the matrimonial commission although the defendant, i.e., the matchmaker, did most of the work. Because the plaintiff was instrumental in introducing the groom to the matchmaker, the court arbiters decided the plaintiff should get one–third of the commission, and the matchmaker should get two-thirds commission. The decisions of the court were decided primarily not by religious or secular law but by common sense. As a result of arbitration, the necessity of going into secular courts to settle differences was avoided.

Other Types of Cases

There were seven other types of cases brought before the Jewish Board of Arbitration during this era. They can be broken down as issues of real estate (3), sick benefit (1), assault (1), domestic relations (1), and support and maintenance of indigent parent (1). The paucity of cases reflects that they were minimal problems to the immigrants. Real estate issues were practically nil due to the low socio–economic status of immigrants. Other issues were a rarity in the Jewish community due to closely knit family and communal life of the Jewish ethnic group.

Decisions

The decisions of the court were only occasionally rendered in full for either the plaintiff or defendant. On the whole, decisions were more usually in the nature of a compromise. In small claims, usually the arbiters decided that a portion of the claim be paid. Judgments were qualified in this manner in an effort to appease both parties involved. For example, the disposition by the court of an $11.00 claim (January 4, 1917) was decided: "Defendant to receive $1.00, plaintiff $7.00, war sufferers $3.00." In another case (July 10, 1917), a defendant had to pay back bills of $21.46, "but inasmuch as there is evidence that he did have a loss by the spoiling of the herring, we (arbiters) find that the defendant be allowed $7.00." Verbal agreements and "moral promises" between litigants were also arbitrated by compromise decisions.

The outward principle of the court was justice, but the real principle was "shalom," peace. As the arbiters wrote in a June 14, 1919 decision, "the only reward they (the arbiters) pray for is that all bitterness be blotted out, that all parties forgive and forget, that real peace prevail and that Baltimore Jewry continue to enjoy its excellent reputation."

Common sense, equitable justice, and

making peace between parties were the criteria by which the decisions of the Jewish Court of Arbitration were rendered.

How the Court and Cases Reflect Social History

The Jewish Court of Arbitration and its endeavors are indicative of the social history of America and the Jewish ethnic group of that era. During the immigrant influx to American shores (the "goldeneh medina," golden land of opportunity) there was the majority American society and then there were minority ethnic groups, such as the East European immigrants. In 1917, the ratio of the entire Jewish population to the total population in America was 3.28. The Jewish Board of Arbitration was a subsystem within the American system of democracy. It was also a legal system within a legal system.

The highly individualistic institution of a Jewish court reflects the communal spirit in the American urban center where intragroup frictions could be arbitrated by one's own ethnic peers. Since the court was most active during the period from 1915 to 1925, it is also an indication of the social isolation and alienation of the Jewish immigrants in their relation to the outer society.

Some major trends in the evolution of the American national character in the twentieth century can be measured on the spectrum of ethnicity, acculturation, and assimilation. Today's society has reached beyond the melting pot, taking pride in one's own ethnicity. The thread that runs through these themes is nativism, the value judgment that descendants of the founding fathers of America have the highest status combined with an antipathy towards aliens who are not assimilated. Ironically, the actual founding fathers did not foster nativism. George Washington first spoke of America as an asylum to the oppressed and needy of the earth.

During the immigrant wave in America around the turn of the twentieth century, a mutual suspicion must have existed between the newly arrived ethnic groups and the nativist type of population. This could very well be another reason for the creation of the Jewish Board of Arbitration where the unique tongue of Yiddish could be used, understood, and accepted within the framework of a distinct cultural identity different from the outer society.

The cases of the court reflect intragroup tensions. Even the small claims filed in the courts were issues of Jews working and dealing with other Jews. It seems, according to the spectrum delineated of the American national character trends, the East European immigrant referred to was still in the American ethnic stage during the era addressed. It seems clear that only those immigrants who felt a deep sense of their cultural roots went to the Jewish Court of Arbitration.

The initial ethnic period of development in the American national character can be illustrated by the Jewish Traditional cases heard and decided by the court. These cases all have in common the element of Jewish culture; however, they have hardly anything to do with the 613 "mitzvot" (Hebrew commandments), i.e., precepts in the Jewish laws. Traditions then were carried over from the "shtetls" (East European ghettos), but not the piety associated with their former environment. The Jewish traditional cases mainly deal with censuring group members within the community. These cases did not serve as injunctions for not following the commandments. Issues relating to cemeteries, too, have nothing to do with the actual laws of burial. They refer to boundaries, real estate, and lots. Buying a place of burial was of utmost importance to the immigrants. Only one case concerning kosher meat could come under the category of religious law. The matchmaker case was a cultural phenomenon, a traditional custom used in lieu of the American concept of romantic love. The case pertaining to loss of "tfillim" (objects worn by men in prayer) infers religious devotion, but is not based on Jewish laws pertaining to worship.

Lastly, the fact that a number of cases involve several synagogues (houses of prayer) makes one wonder if they were erected only for reasons of religious worship. The fact that the urban minority group built so many, when technically it wasn't necessary, leads one to the conclusion that it had to do with variances in the Jewish minority cultural and social patterns emanating from their country and village of European origin. This also backs

up the thesis that the Jewish immigrants, on the whole, retained their cultural ways but were only nominally Orthodox.

From the court's cases in the category of Jewish Traditional, one can deduce that those who immigrated to America were not that pious. Their background, culture, and traditions had little to do with their religious devotion. The ideal of group cohesion is evident in the cases that were considered different from the group's norms. The norms had little to do with piety but with justice and fair dealing with one's fellow man. Jewish homogeneity during that era was based on ethnic identity while in pursuit of a common destiny in America.

The traditional type of cases of the Jewish Board of Arbitration helps dispel the notion that the Orthodox immigrants were very religious. "Those who emigrated first can be expected to have been the least traditional whose piety was at most what Leo Baeck called Milieu-Frommigkeit"[5] (i.e., religiousness only as the result of environment of background and culture). The East European immigrants were of the "prosteh" (uneducated) class seeking "parnosseh" (livelihood) in America. They were designated in the Jewish idiom as "people of the week" in contrast to the truly pious "people of the book".

Cases involving small claims illustrated differences of opinion that are evident within the intragroup structure. The monetary amounts in the cases themselves indicate both the low socioeconomic status of the East European immigrants as well as the value of the dollar during that era.

The 1917 case of a defendant requiring $2.00 as the payment to the plaintiff represented a significant amount in those days. (It was also a matter of compromise, arbitration.) The high cost of living in that era has been deplored in a 1914 issue of *American Cookery*. "During the last decade (living costs have) soared to an appalling extent."[6] Still, even though salaries were low monetarily for the immigrant, what the dollar purchased was, in most instances, sufficient to provide for the person living in those times. Arbitration amounts rose between 1915 and 1925, perhaps due to a greater increase in the economic mobility of the immigrant and also as the cost of living rose. The cases are indicative, too, that every dollar was important to the immigrant whose lifestyle was one of poverty and long working hours.

The social history significance of the small claims cases can be summed up by Oscar Handlin. "To create capital in America meant a miserly scrimping at the expenses of day-to-day consumption. It meant a slighting of traditional obligations, the exploitation rather than the succor of neighbors."[7] Justice was sought and achieved, however, through the use of the Jewish Arbitration Court.

The low socioeconomic status of the immigrant is evident in the types of livelihoods denoted by the court cases. They also indicate their individualism and self-employment, like plumber, grocer, butcher, and operators of small businesses. In that era industry was blossoming in America, especially the manufacture of clothing. The court cases, however, illustrate that immigrants could become small entrepeneurs of the working class.

The beginnings of real estate cases (3) show the burgeoning of social mobility and acculturation into the American society. Other cases (4) reflect deviance from basic cultural norms, which were a rarity in the immigrant population.

The social history of the East European immigrant population as it struggled to plant roots in America is gleaned from the cases and the nature of the Jewish Board of Arbitration. Some of the explanations are an educated interpretation within the context of history.

The Jewish immigrants came to America in pursuit of freedom, just as they pursued freedom in the Biblical Exodus. It is very interesting that in 1776 Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson wanted the Seal of the United States to depict the Israelites escaping from Egypt. The founding fathers equated the American Revolution with the Israelites' quest for freedom. The ideologies are the same although the patterns of social history are diverse.

Conclusion

From the beginning the Jewish Board of Arbitration in Baltimore represented a bridge between the complex principles of American law and similar but equally com-

plex principles of Jewish rabbinic tradition. The unique decisions of the court were decided primarily not by religious or secular law but by common sense. The judges who were a panel of three arbiters, always strove to reach a verdict that satisfied both parties.

The cost was nil, no lawyers were involved, and the court evolved as being more than a People's Court. Even the humblest could feel at ease because of the lack of technicalities and informal atmosphere in which to settle disputes. The nature of disputes reflects the pressing issues, needs, and lifestyle of that era.

The ancient wisdom of Solomon was transplanted to American shores by the establishment of the Jewish Board of Arbitration in 1912 in Baltimore and other cities. It was a positive force in the communal life of the Jewish immigrants after the turn of the century and its principles remain a positive force even today.

The era of the inception of the Jewish Board of Arbitration occurred during an immigrant wave in American history. The nature of the impact of immigrants into American society depended not only on the country's economic and social development, but also on the degree of similarity between immigrants and the native groups in lifestyle and cultural characteristics. Problems of social adaptation and cultural transfer constitute the chief human issues in immigration.

American Jewish social history, as evidenced by the Jewish Board of Arbitration and case material, illustrates that the East European immigrants maintained their own distinct ethnic group life and established their own mutual-aid societies and institutions in urban centers where the immigrants had low socioeconomic status. To a high degree self-contained, the ethnic community (which was distinguished by language, culture, and traditional milieu religious customs) was formed as the first step towards acculturation into the population majority of American society.

Today the descendants of Jewish immigrants enrich and embellish the fabric of American life. The unsung heroes, however, were the East European Jewish immigrants and their urban pioneering efforts in America, the land of freedom.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Revolutionary Statesman: Charles Carroll and the War. By Thomas O'Brien Hanley. A Campion Book. (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1983. Pp. x, 448. $15.95.)

With publication of *Revolutionary Statesman: Charles Carroll and the War*, Father Thomas O'Brien Hanley continues his study of the political career of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. After a preliminary chapter summarizing his earlier volume, *Charles Carroll of Carrollton: The Making of a Revolutionary Gentleman*, Hanley recounts Carroll's activities during the Revolutionary era, both at the intercolonial and the provincial and state levels. Tracing Carroll's role as a member of the mission to Canada, member of the Committee of Correspondence and Council of Safety, delegate to the Continental Congress, and member of the Maryland Senate, Hanley endeavors to delineate the process by which Carroll evolved from a gentleman participating in the Revolutionary movement to a statesman consciously developing himself as a leader capable of contriving "options regarding methods of independence," motivated by a "lust for fame" made honorable by his ability to "mythologize the cause" in whose service he labored. (pp. 194–5)

With Hanley's study as the first treatment of Charles Carroll's life since 1942, one can make a persuasive case for the need for a contemporary biography of Charles Carroll. He undeniably played a prominent leadership role as Maryland secured independence (although not as exclusively central a role as Hanley claims for him). A man of immense wealth, he supported a revolution whose implementation required great financial sacrifice on his part (although other colonists of substantial wealth joined him in that sacrifice). Excluded from public office prior to the Revolution because of his Roman Catholic faith, by the closing years of his life Carroll had become a living icon of the Revolution. (Thus, any visitor to the region who could obtain an invitation included a visit to Carroll on his itinerary, much as he also included a visit to Washington's tomb.) Moreover, extensive scholarly efforts in the last two decades have been devoted to the colonial history of the Chesapeake region. The results of these efforts have greatly enlarged our understanding of the social and economic context of Charles Carroll's life. A biography that combined the results of this scholarship with the insights offered by the voluminous Carroll family papers would indeed be able to trace the development of Charles Carroll as a statesman, assessing those goals and attitudes that Carroll shared with his social and economic peers and those that were the product of his special religious, educational and family background.

The biographer approaching a subject who, like Carroll, played a significant role in a momentous historical period can construct his work in one of two ways. He can focus upon his subject, using the historical events as a backdrop against which to measure the growth and development of the actor being studied. Alternatively, he can use the career of his subject as a foil by which to illuminate the particular period of history. As indicated above, Father Hanley chose the first approach but has implemented it by a method that vitiates his efforts.

Hanley believes that "the extent of Carroll's writings makes it possible to present the inner and outward movement of his life with unusual detail." (p. ix) Acting upon that belief, he gives the reader a work largely shaped by Carroll, with a gloss by Hanley. Rather than constructing this biography to explicate the theme stated above, Hanley allows his study to be molded by the sources: the Carroll family correspondence (in which Charles Carroll of Annapolis often comes to life more vividly than does his son), Carroll's journal from the mission to Canada, and the proceedings of the Continental Congress and the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates. The result is not only "unusual detail" but mind-numbing detail, in which the germane and the irrelevant are given equal weight and the thread of Hanley's argument becomes lost in the morass.

At the same time, Hanley frequently fails to allow Carroll to speak for himself at opportune moments. Writing of Carroll's work in the Council of Safety, Hanley asserts that Carroll was "forced to reevaluate his desire for fame and to estimate the satisfaction that it gave him." (p. 97) Similarly, upon Carroll's return from Canada, "the desire of a public fame . . . burned more brightly than ever and brought vigor to the task of winning a declaration by Maryland." (p. 151) One assumes that Hanley's appraisal is based upon Carroll's own words—not quoted—rather than inferences. In this instance those words would offer a valuable insight into Carroll's perception of the responsibilities and rewards of public life, a perception central to

Revolutionary Statesman's thesis, but Hanley omits the relevant passages.

By allowing Carroll, through the sources, to shape the narrative, Hanley also permits Carroll to determine the interpretation of events. In fact, Hanley explicitly states that "conveying how he perceived events is more important than estimating his accuracy in terms of other sources." (p. ix) Thus, although he acknowledges Carroll's "touchiness, priggishness, complacency, aloofness, introversion, rhetorical bombast, and paranoia," he considers them "passing expressions of a life persistent in its forward thrust." (pp. 194–5) Hanley gives no indication that awareness of Carroll's defects tempers his evaluation of Carroll's activities. By his failure as Carroll's biographer to separate himself from his subject, Hanley offers a one-dimensional portrait. We have Carroll as seen through the eyes of Carroll rather than as perceived by an observer studying Carroll in the round, from the perspectives of his fellow actors as well as from his own.

Because of Hanley's failure to distance himself from Carroll, neither can *Revolutionary Statesman* function as a biography of the second type, in which the subject is a device for illuminating a broader canvas. Carroll in this work is the sun around which all other actors, all events revolve; those actors and events are seen only in his reflected light and have little if any existence beyond their connection with Carroll. For example, Philip Crowl (*Maryland During and After the Revolution*) in six pages conveys more information about the careers and positions of the major popular party leaders than Hanley manages in his entire book. Similarly, despite the many pages devoted to the legal tender issue or to the question of confiscation of Tory property, the reader knows no more about Carroll's opponents than the fact of their opposition. No effort is made to present the issues other than as Carroll viewed them; no effort is made to move beyond Carroll's views, to consider why an opposition existed, or to weigh the merits of the two sides.

One is left to wonder about the audience for which this work is intended. On the one hand, it presupposes an extensive knowledge of the personalities and issues central to Maryland's history during the Revolutionary years. A reader unfamiliar with Carroll's life and seeking an informative, well-rounded biography will not find it in this volume. On the other hand, the reader who brings knowledge of the period to this work will surely find redundant the lengthy process of examining Carroll's perceptions of the events, without interpretation or evaluation in a broader context. Potential readers seeking a study of the political controversies of the revolutionary period would do better to read Crowl or Ronald Hoffman's *A Spirit of Dissension.* Those looking for a biography of Charles Carroll would do better to wait for publication by the Institute of Early American History and Culture of the two-volume edition of Carroll's letters, which will include editor Hoffman's biographical study of the Carroll family. Only those with an appetite for detail, an indifference to style, and a taste for hagiography are likely to find *Revolutionary Statesman* suited to their interests.

JEAN B. RUSSO
The Johns Hopkins University

Shipwreck Anthropology. Edited by Richard A. Gould. (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1983. 8 text figures, bibliography. 273 pp. $27.50.)

Underwater archaeology is a recent phenomenon. It has rightfully been identified as a nascent discipline, having evolved during little more than twenty years of research activity. During those two decades, archaeologists working on underwater sites have struggled to establish the legitimacy of their investigations and developed more or less standardized methods and techniques for recovering data in a hostile environment. Today increasing attention to theoretical problems, designs for research, and protection and management of the resource base provide an indication that underwater archaeology is maturing beyond infancy. *Shipwreck Anthropology* reflects much of the turmoil that is characteristic of the adolescence of underwater archaeology.

A by-product of the May 1981 conference on shipwrecks as anthropological phenomena sponsored by the School of American Research Advanced Seminars, *Shipwreck Anthropology* is composed of eleven edited contributions of the program participants. While the authors are united in their expressed opposition to the looting of shipwreck sites by professional treasure hunters and acknowledge that a diverse approach to the investigation of shipwreck sites will recover more of the data those sites preserve, their presentations diverge to reflect the varied facets of the present "crisis in underwater archaeology." As the title suggests, *Shipwreck Anthropology* explores the investigation of shipwrecks as anthropological phenomena and sources of insight into patterns of human behavior. Editor Richard A. Gould sets the tenor of this volume in an examination of shipwrecks as a part of the legitimate domain of archaeology and consequently anthropology. In calling for a unified approach to the investigation of under-

water sites and introducing research design, resource management, and treasure hunting as several of the major concerns of the seminar participants, Gould identified those themes central to the concept of shipwreck anthropology.

At the heart of the issues is the concept of the shipwreck site as a source of data that relates to broad and complex research problems associated with human behavior. Proponents of a "nomothetic" or general approach to the investigation of shipwreck sites call for what Patty Jo Watson in "Method and Theory in Shipwreck Archaeology" describes as well-thought-out, "broadly generalizing and cross-culturally comparative" research instead of the narrow historically particularistic investigations that anthropologists cite as characteristic of the past two decades. Regardless of the theoretical strength of these arguments, several weaknesses cannot be ignored. As Watson points out, "there seems to be no good published example" of nomothetic theory in practice. In "Rethinking Shipwreck Archaeology: A History of Ideas and Considerations for New Directions," Daniel A. Lenihan confirms that anthropologists have failed to exhibit the value of their inter-disciplinary approach. Historical particularists have carried out most, if not all, of the underwater archaeological research. While Larry Murphy presents a number of well-thought-out ways that shipwrecks can contribute to understanding human behavior in "Shipwrecks as Data Base for Human Behavioral Studies," his approach and the efforts of both Gould and Mark P. Leone to translate archaeological data into insight into patterns of human behavior each illustrate a need for and indeed dependence upon the by-products of historically particularistic research. Although that approach is roundly condemned by anthropologists, Gould's comparison of the Spanish Armada and the Battle of Britain in "The Archaeology of War: Wrecks of the Spanish Armada of 1588 and the Battle of Britain, 1940" and Leone's anthropological analysis of data generated by an historical and archaeological reconnaissance of the Patuxent River titled "Land and Water, Urban Life, and Boats: Underwater Reconnaissance in Chesapeake Bay" would have been impossible without the data base produced by what anthropologists conceive as myopic preoccupations with the particulars of history.

In support of historical particularism, George F. Bass provides a clear and polished rationale to support the continuation of such investigations in "A Plea for Historical Particularism in Nautical Archaeology." It is essential, he points out, to "understand the details of the past before trying to theorize vaguely about it." Bass' concept of the interaction of historical and archaeological research is shared by both Peter R. Schmidt and Stephen A. Mrozowski. In "History, Smugglers, Change, and Shipwrecks," they concur that historical context is essential in identifying and interpreting connections between behavior and material remains. In addition, they point out that modern historiography transcends the concept of the historian's craft as an identification of the chronology of events. One of the most obvious misconceptions of the anthropologist is his concept of the role of historical research in shipwreck archaeology. Yet at the same time proponents of the nomothetic approach to shipwreck archaeology acknowledge that historical research is essential to a well-rounded interdisciplinary research design.

Possibly these problems are not, as E. Gary Stickel points out in "The Mystery of the Prehistoric 'Chinese Anchors': Toward Research Designs for Underwater Archaeology," that underwater archaeology has "technologically advanced beyond idealogical ability to cope with advancement" but, as Bass suggests, one of semantics and disciplinary isolation. Perhaps anthropologists do not recognize designs for research unless they are presented in the format and jargon utilized by Stickel in his proposed approach for investigation of the Chinese stone anchor site found off the California coast. These problems are also apparent in examining Wilburn A. Cockrell's "valid nonexclusive conceptual device designed to order certain classes of shipwreck data" titled "A Trial Classificatory Model for the Analysis of Shipwrecks" and Cheryl Claassen's suggestion in "Answering Our Questions with Experiments" that there are "no problems in archaeology that cannot be better understood through experiment." In both cases, it is obvious that semantics and a lack of disciplinary interaction are perhaps the major barriers between proponents of a nomothetic approach and those clinging to their "historical particularism." Without the necessity for describing his work a second time "in other words" for the sake of clarification, Bass recounts interdisciplinary efforts at classification, designing research to answer complex questions, and the construction of experimental models that have characterized his research in the Mediterranean.

Although it is difficult to remain a neutral observer, as this review perhaps indicates, that is in itself an excellent indication that the volume serves as an effective vehicle for conveying the most successful aspect of the seminar. *Shipwreck Anthropology* does effectively disseminate the variety of concerns that characterize the present stage of underwater archaeological development. It will undoubtedly serve as a stimulant for the kind of interdisciplinary interac-

tion that should in the final analysis strengthen and enhance the products of archaeological research underwater. While some of the presentations might belabor casual reading, all provide interesting material for ideological exercise, an exercise not entirely lost during the first two decades in the development of underwater archaeology.

GORDON P. WATTS
East Carolina University

Furniture Care and Conservation. By Robert F. McGiffin, Jr. (Nashville, Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1983. Pp. 256. $17.95.)

The "True Cross" was an object dear to a conservator's heart. Though broken into many parts, it had a remarkable quality of endurance such that centuries later the disparate parts had actually grown in number to encompass enough wood for a dozen crosses. An object of this stability obviously had little need of the conservator's hand. Unfortunately most wooden artifacts are not so lucky, and for these the art and science of conservation was born. After centuries of attempts to preserve objects of antiquity, veneration, and artistic merit, the idea of a systematic approach based upon the results of scientific inquiry emerged early in this century. This new scientific conservation was to replace the more artistic and craft orientation of "restoration." Some of the advocates of the new scientific conservation are on a crusade, one that not only seeks to preserve our material heritage but also to attack those who have yet to accept the new faith.

Furniture Care and Conservation by Robert McGiffin has both these qualities. The introduction is a litany of the true believer's creed. The author's first words to the reader are a condemnation of the "restorer," a creature to whom all sorts of ills are attributed. The foreword by one of McGiffin's mentors, Caroline Keck, tells the reader that he or she is about to get some good advice and that they had better like it or else, and then proceeds to detail the "or else." Despite Mrs. Keck's declaration that the advice is both factual and objective, the reader is subjected to many facts and some very subjective interpretations of them.

The author writes of "furniture created for utilitarian purposes in a living environment." This blithely ignores most of the furniture that has been collected. High-style furniture was created for artistic and often ceremonial purposes that had little to do with utility. An early caption describes "the true conservator" as one who would leave an old incorrect repair in place as it shows part of the object's history and use. This leads me to wonder when a bad repair becomes historic. One might conclude that if I make a mistake today, I should be hounded out of the profession, but if the mistake survives long enough it becomes palatable, even subject to preservation itself. McGiffin claims to be presenting an alternative approach to the treatment of historic furniture and wooden artifacts; one that concentrates on how much and why and not how to. Again he ignores the differences between historic and artistic objects, which may demand different approaches to achieve different ends.

There is much excellent basic information in this book that anyone involved with furniture should know. Much of this is not limited to the field of furniture conservation, and is available through any book on collections care and maintenance. I wish I could endorse all the recommendations for basic care and maintenance, but some are too dangerous to ignore. McGiffin recommends weekly dusting of the furniture to prevent a build-up of dust, which under certain conditions can ruin a finish. Dusting and building maintenance in general are tasks that fall to the lowest paid and most poorly trained personnel in any organization. Encouraging them to weekly handle a collection is to invite disaster and the more extensive efforts of a conservator. This is a case where the chapter and verse cited should be the horror stories of broken pieces, lost veneer, and scratched finishes caused by clumsy janitors and careless maids. The author recommends the training and supervision of such staff, but this seems more hopeful than realistic. Even if one accepts the author's injunction to clean and dust often, his instructions are unclear. He makes no mention of the use of silicone-laden spray polishes. These time-savers deposit silicone in the finish, which over a period of time will destroy the finish and prevent the adhesion of a new one. He uses the terms wax polish, polishing, and dusting interchangeably in a single paragraph, and derides polishing and encourages dusting. Another passage forbids the use of linseed oil as a finish but condones the sparing use of linseed oil-turpentine-and vinegar as an infrequent polish. No use of linseed oil in any form at any time should be the unequivocal rule. The question of which glue to use is confusing. White or yellow is a constant subject of controversy. He says the yellow is reversible and the white is not, while the manufacturer of these says the opposite, which totally avoids the question of different formulas for different manufacturers. This is not a mere semantic discussion on the pronunciation of potatoes or tomatoes. The idea of reversibility is central to conservation philosophy. McGiffin

devotes a paragraph to the components and manufacture of animal-hide glue, but is ambivalent on its use. Animal-hide glue is totally reversible and was the basis of all furniture glues well into the twentieth century. It is compatible with the original material, comes in a modified cold mix, or can be bought in flakes and prepared as it has been for centuries in a double boiler.

The problems of finishes both old and new are another example of unclear and one-sided advice. McGiffin gives a very specific list of cases where a bad finish may be removed. These involve deteriorations of later finishes obscuring original finishes. He makes no mention of how to discover if there is original finish left. Nor does he mention the fact that some finishes, originals included, have darkened to the point where the wood underneath is invisible. This is a problem where inlay or highly figured woods are used as part of the overall design. Painting conservators do not hesitate to remove discolored and deteriorating varnishes that obscure the painting. McGiffin enjoins the reader to leave the finish intact or cause irreparable damage to the historic integrity and a loss of "hard-cash market value."

These discussions on finish removal are followed by a lack of instruction on new finishes. The author makes no accommodation for those objects which will be returned to use and those that need never fear the next cocktail party or holiday dinner. Lacquers and varnishes specifically formulated to withstand the modern world and yet still reversible are given scant attention. The use of finishes that have great durability are sometimes called for, even in museums, where the public may have limited access or limited supervision or where climate controls are lacking. Ignoring these considerations can again invite the more serious attentions of a conservator.

The whole area of technique shows consistent sins of omission. The four most common problems that a furniture conservator faces whatever his title or situation are broken chairs, loose and missing veneer, bad finishes, and a desire to change upholstery. McGiffin devotes some time to veneer problems and some to finishes; he gives little attention to chairs, and absolutely none to upholstery. His attention to examination, cleaning, and maintenance are a good basis for preventive medicine, but one cannot stop there.

Toward the end of the book McGiffin gives the reader a description of what the reader should expect from a conservator in terms of facilities and service. A glowing description complete with pictures of New York State's facilities at Peeble's Island is followed by the statement that expecting a private conservator to maintain a laboratory so extensive is unrealistic. Undeterred, he then paints an unrealistic portrait of the services a conservator should provide. References to "the best situation" and "characteristic of the best in the field" fail to inform his intended audience of collectors, museum staffs, and historic sites' personnel what they can realistically expect to find and how expensive it will be. Conservation of anything is a time consuming, labor intensive, and expensive proposition. The alternatives are certainly worse, but conservation as a profession will always be faced with the Malthusian dilemma of more and more objects to care for and not enough time or money to do it. Conservators like doctors in war are called upon to create a hierarchy of need, a *triage* of sorts for objects. Preventive maintenance is the only egalitarian form of conservation available. McGiffin's descriptions and prescriptions give the reader an unrealistic expectation of service not for any individual object but the expectation that all objects conserved should and will receive this level of care.

The questions of why and how much to conserve are ongoing questions. The demons of destruction by over-conservation and destruction by neglect or insufficient conservation will forever plague every professional in the field. The good advice on environmental factors, the value of good records and careful examination and the importance of proper handling and storage is muddied by constant forays into questionable techniques and unresolved philosophical speculations. This book unfortunately does not give those collectors, museum staffs and historic sites' personnel for whom it was intended a clear picture of the abilities and limits of the conservation field today.

J. MICHAEL FLANIGAN
Baltimore, Maryland

Bazil Gordon, his Forebears and Descendants

DOUGLAS H. GORDON

BAZIL GORDON, YOUNGEST SON OF Samuel Gordon, Laird of Lochdougan, was born in 1768 and emigrated to Virginia in 1783. The term "Laird" is not a title of nobility. It simply denotes in common parlance one whose family have long resided on an estate, in the case of Lochdougan a tract of four or five hundred acres. It is equivalent to the English term "Squire."

Bazil's elder brother, Samuel, had preceded him in emigrating. He married in 1798 Suzannah Fitzhugh Knox. Bazil started a small store in Falmouth, a group of houses hardly a hamlet on the north side of the Rappahannock River across from Fredericksburg. His small brick house adjoins the much larger Moncure house. His business grew into a huge importing and exporting enterprise.

In 1807 Thomas Jefferson imposed his embargo on British imports and exports to Britain—one man sanctions—in retaliation for the seizure of American merchantmen and sailors by the British navy. Bazil was at this time, just before the embargo went into effect, sufficiently strong financially to send to London a number of ships laden with tobacco. His captain had orders to sell when he received word to do so in the owner's own handwriting. Thus he waited while the price of tobacco soared on the London market. But he feared that the embargo might be lifted, because the London merchants were imploring Parliament to stop the Navy's behavior which caused the embargo from which they were suffering—exactly what Jefferson hoped for. Furthermore, if the embargo did remain in force, the captain feared he could not receive orders in the handwriting of his employer. Consequently, he took it upon himself to sell when he was able to obtain a profit of a million dollars. Because of this, Bazil is sometimes called America's first millionaire. In fact, many millionaires existed in Philadelphia, New York and Boston. But Bazil was probably the first American to have a seven digit fortune in cash.

With his brother Samuel he bought the Fielding Lewis house and estate on the western edge of Fredericksburg. They renamed it "Kenmore" for Kenmore Castle. It is believed, but cannot be proved, that the Lochdougan Gordons were cousins of their neighbors, the Lords Kenmore, the last of whom was beheaded after the final uprising of the Scots in 1745 was put down. The name has been given to various family houses, sometimes spelt Kenmuir, and exists at present in a road in The Orchards.

Samuel and his ten children lived in Kenmore. Bazil continued to live in his modest home in Falmouth. His family of seven children was diminished when four, huddling under a tree during a storm, were killed when a huge branch fell on them. The two brothers had a joint bookplate "Samuel and Bazil Gordon, January 1st, 1800" for their considerable library.

In 1822 Bazil bought the large tract in Rappahannock County which he called, from his favorite book, "Wakefield." It was divided into seven parts, Lochdougan, Stockerton (the home of Bazil's grandfather and at least three generations of Gordons before him), Lochinvar (Sir Walter Scott's "Young Lochinvar" was a Gordon), Greenlaw, Queen's Hill and two others.

Meanwhile, Bazil, in 1814, married the sister of Samuel's wife, Anna Campbell Knox. He died in 1847. His wife outlived him for twenty years, living at Belmont,

Mr. Gordon, long active in public affairs, particularly in zoning and city planning in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore, is a lawyer and book collector.

later the home of Gari Melchers. By his will he left about half a million dollars to his daughter, Annie Campbell Gordon. She married John Hanson Thomas, grandson of John Hanson, President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation. They built 1 West Mount Vernon Place. Their children were: Bazil Gordon, John Hanson, Raleigh Colston, Douglas Hamilton (president of the Merchants and Mechanics, now First National Bank, and the most respected member and spokesman of the financial community), John Marshall, Nannie Gordon (Mrs. Henry Rieman Duval) and Mary Randolph (Mrs. John Nicholas Carroll of the Caves who left four sons, John Nicholas, Charles Gordon, Douglas Gordon and Marshall). The two sons of his elder son Bazil Brown Gordon, who predeceased him, inherited another half-a-million, but quickly ran through it. The younger son, Douglas Hamilton Gordon, was residuary legatee.

Douglas Hamilton, born in 1817, married Ellen Clark in 1845. She died three years later leaving one child, Ellen Douglas Gordon, mother of Dr. Gordon Wilson. He was obliged to post bond for a million dollars, representing the two half million dollar bequests to his sister and his two nephews. Because of the destruction of court records in the Civil War, it is not known exactly how much he himself inherited. It is thought to have been about a million and a half dollars. After settling his father's estate, he lived in Paris for some years. He returned to Virginia and married Anne Eliza Pleasants in 1857.

Anne Eliza was the daughter of John Hampden Pleasants, editor of the Richmond *Whig*, the anti-Jackson paper. The Jacksonian paper's editor was Thomas Ritchie, a leading member of the so-called Essex Junto which ruled Virginia and to a large extent the entire nation. Thomas Ritchie, Jr., to get rid of a rival journalist, issued a challenge to a duel to the peaceable John Hampden, which under the mores of the day he had to accept. He fired his pistol in the air, was struck by a large number of bullets and died the following night. His daughter was brought up by her grandfather, Governor James Pleasants. His mother was Anne Randolph, sister of Jane, Thomas Jefferson's mother. His wife was of the Rose family, the only Scotch family which still inhabits its medieval castle, "Kilravock," and is descended from the royal family of Scotland. But the greatest influence on her character came from the Presbyterian minister Moses Drury Hoge whose school she attended.

The Douglas Hamiltons' wedding trip took her to Europe for the first time, him for the last. Her diary shows a remarkable range of reading. They settled in Fredericksburg and lived there until the city was brutally shelled by the incompetent General Burnside. His brave troops managed to cross the Rappahannock River under murderous gunfire. They enjoyed the delights of looting until they were driven back after terrible losses.

A prized family possession is the bronze by Marochetti of Victor Emmanual of Savoy stolen by Colonel (later General) John T. Owens of Pennsylvania. It was miraculously recovered after Mrs. John Hanson Thomas from a window of West Mount Vernon Place heard two soldiers conversing on the sidewalk below, one of whom said the finest thing he knew of that had been stolen during the war was that very bronze.

The Douglas Hamilton children were Douglas Hamilton, Jr., and Hampden Pleasants, both of whom died in childhood. The five, (in addition to Ellen) who lived to maturity were: Basil Brown, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia, Mary Pleasants (Mrs. DeCourcy Wright Thom), Nannie Campbell (Mrs. John Quitman Lovell), Douglas Huntly and Rose Stanley (Mrs. John Triplett Haxall).

The name Douglas Hamilton recalls some connection with the Duke of Hamilton (probably financial aid extended to Bazil when he emigrated). When Douglas Hamilton's first born of the same name died, the family wanted to keep the name Douglas. Accordingly the sixth child and last son was called Douglas. But to avoid repeating the exact name of the deceased son, the Rose family tree was searched for a substitute. Thus Huntly was decided on, though the relation with the first Earl of Huntly is exceedingly remote, going back to the fifteenth century.

Douglas Huntly, in addition to his mother's strict ideas acquired from the Reverend Moses Drury Hoge, was turned over to a

Virginia Massie relation, the widow of a Methodist minister, the Reverend James Stanley, who increased his seriousness and probably inculcated his only fault which was excessive modesty. He was the youngest member of the ninth class at Johns Hopkins, 1887, but led it. He then studied law at the University of Maryland, where once more he was the youngest member of his class, but led it. He did graduate work for a short while, then aged twenty-six, headed the syndicate which in 1892 bought the Baltimore *News* of which he was president until the paper was sold to Munsey in 1907. In the intervening fifteen years it smashed the corrupt Gorman-Rasin political ring, gave Baltimore modern health laws and the charter under which with some amendments it is still operating, and brought the City from the middle ages into the twentieth century. Meanwhile, in 1898, then thirty-two years old, he founded the International Trust Company of which he was president, being known as the Boy Banker. In 1910 the International merged with the Baltimore Trust Company. He was vice-president for a year or two, then president until his retirement in 1916. He was active in many other enterprises, notably the Roland Park Company. Here his artistic side had full play. He was most influential in the affairs of the Company, as he had selected the president Edward Bouton, recommended to him by Charles H. Grasty, his Virginia-born publisher of the *News*. He was one of the most active and generous alumni of Hopkins, and also a useful Trustee of the Gilman School. Owing to his modesty, he is as forgotten as if he had never lived.

Agnes Campbell Gordon, one of the ten children of Samuel Gordon, elder brother of Bazil, married Hughes Armistead, son of Colonel Armistead of Fort McHenry fame. She owned the flag that flew over Fort McHenry during the battle and "was still there" next morning. It was the subject of much family discussion. It was offered to the Maryland Historical Society which foolishly declined to accept it. Other proposals did not work out either. Meanwhile, the flag reposed in her attic where occasional souvenir hunters snipped small pieces from its lower edge. One afternoon her husband came home from his office and was told by his wife that she had given the flag to a relation named Appleton. Her husband was indignant. But she merely said: "More battles have been fought over that flag than were ever fought under it. I am glad to be rid of it". The donee was patriotically inspired and gave it to the Nation. It hangs now in the National Museum of American History.

Minna's two sons, both oddly named George, (George Armistead and George William Carlyle) though the younger was usually called Gordon, were most successful in amassing large fortunes. Gordon's widow gave three million dollars to Hopkins to endow the Engineering School which now bears her husband's name.

Thomas Gordon, Bazil's first cousin, emigrated from Scotland, married and had three sons. One of these, John, married Gertrude Gouverneur Waddington Ogden of New York. Two of their sons lived in London where John married a most beautiful woman, Rosalie Murray of whose background nothing is known.

While vacationing in Brazil, John noticed that the sand around the harbor of Rio was very heavy. He took some back to England where it was found to be rich in tungsten. It had for centuries been used as ballast. Numerous ships sent by John soon arrived and took on this valuable sand. He had a vast fortune before the Brazilian government knew what was going on. Then John made the great mistake of his life: he went to Brazil and exploited the tungsten for the benefit of the government. A change in the government brought new Brazilian rulers. They sued John on the theory the sand he had taken was theirs, recovered a judgment in a politically minded court, and took away virtually his whole fortune.

Meanwhile, his wife had been enjoying wholesale entertaining. She had a house in Park Lane, another in Paris, rented Kenmore Castle, while he was spending most of his time in Brazil. She gave parties where Caruso sang and Kreisler played. At the coming-out party of their younger daughter, Evelyn, attended by King Edward VII, a huge basket of flowers was pulled out on the ball-room floor from which Pavlova emerged and danced for the pleasure of the

guests. The elder daughter, Vera, married Neil Guthrie and secondly Sir Frank Swettenham, governor of Malaya, when he was eighty–nine years old. His portrait by Sargent with a haughty, even insolent, expression is a splendid souvenir of the British Colonial mentality. The younger, Evelyn, married the Duc de Crussol, a dissipated Parisian who was a lover of Gaby Deslys. She gave him one of the golden pearls of Portugal as an engagement present, the gift of which to Gaby caused Manuel of Portugal to lose his throne. After ten years of married life this couple produced a son, the current Duc d'Uzès, premier duke of France.

The most spectacular member of the family in the fifth American generation is Basil Gordon, the mathematician. He entered Hopkins at seventeen, and was on the Faculty, teaching in the Summer School, at the end of his freshman year. In his sophomore year he was assistant to the editor of the *Journal of Mathematical Sciences* in Washington. In his junior year he was on the regular faculty. He then left Hopkins and without troubling to take his bachelor's and master's degrees, won his Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology.

He is on the faculty of the University of California. But he travels and lectures widely in a variety of foreign languages. He is an excellent musician. Unfortunately, he has never married. Occasionally he predicts he will marry. But he invariably adds, "But mathematics will always be my first love."

His younger brother, G.B.—short for George Barnett—his grandmother's second husband, works for IBM. He could probably have been a mathematician too. He has one daughter as a result of an early marriage which ended in divorce. He is currently married to a childless divorcee. Thus all male descendants of the first Douglas H. Gordon bearing the name Gordon will soon be extinct.

One of the ten children of Samuel Gordon, Bazil's elder brother who lived in Kenmore, attended Yale College then the Harvard Law School, and practiced law in Baltimore. He married Emily Chapman, daughter of Nathanael Chapman, the Virginia-born Philadelphia practitioner who was the first president of the American Medical Association. When he was only thirty-one years old, he became president of the Union Bank of Maryland and was the first treasurer of the Peabody Institute (not Enoch Pratt as is often said). He resigned as treasurer when he went south during the Civil War but remained a trustee for years after he returned to Baltimore.

John M. Gordon's diary at the Maryland Historical Society was said by its late Virginia–born director, James W. Foster, "to be the best diary ever kept in Baltimore." Portions have been published by the Society. But the entire section describing his trip to Michigan in 1836 has been published by the Michigan Historical Commission.

His son was at the age of thirteen killed when a tough threw a snowball at him with a stone inside. Two daughters died, probably of typhoid, as his wife did. The only surviving daughter, Rebecca, married Major Eugene Blackford, C.S.A. They had three children: Eugene Blackford and William Blackford, president of the Maryland Life Insurance Company, and Emily Chapman Blackford who married Arthur E. Poultney. One of their two children, Rebecca, died unmarried, while Emily Blackford Poultney married Charles R. Smith and had one daughter.

BOOK NOTES

Corbin-Waite-Cooper of Baltimore County and City. By Dorothy Cooper Knoff. (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1983, Pp. x, 127. $17.00)

Tracing the ancestry of three Maryland families, this genealogy utilizes abstracted legal and family records, with an interweaving of personal reminiscences and familial anecdotes. Dorothy Knoff, in the first half of the book, untangles the Corbin families which descend from the immigrant Nicholas Corbin, who first settled in Virginia but later removed to Baltimore (northside of Patapsco Hundred), establishing Corbins Rest (1679). Knoff, in an effort to uncover the British ancestry of the Corbins, begins the work in a tenuous manner, admitting, "If there was a connection between the Nicholas in Caundle Bishop [Parish] and the Nicholas in Baltimore County, a hundred years later, it is not shown on the parish register."

Knoff stands on terra firma, however, once she is able to quote the extensive court records, rent rolls, and tax lists which she consulted in the preparation of this genealogy, although several familial connections were of necessity surmised, because of the unavailability of records. Seemingly, she has done an admirable job of unraveling a portion of the very complex (and very extensive) Corbin family of Maryland. She has also included several Corbins of 'parentage not proven' and likewise outlines some Maryland Corbins who migrated to the states of Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The Waite–Cooper families are discussed in the second portion of the book, but information is limited to the generations which relate to Knoff's ancestry. The Waite genealogy carries the family of Richard and Dinah (Diana) Corbin Waite forward from their marriage in 1772. The Cooper family history, peripherally considered, commences with the birth of Samuel Cooper (Dorothy Knoff's grandfather) in 1842 and concludes with the birth of her children. An extended tribute to Knoff's father traces his career as a Methodist minister.

The work is supplemented with a frontispiece sketch by Jan Dorchester and calligraphic renderings by Dolores Croneberger, thus adding to the visual attractiveness of the book. The hand-lettered family charts, however, do not significantly add to an understanding of the family relationships presented. Tabular summaries, perhaps in the form of five generation charts, would have better illuminated the given genealogical information. Portraits and photographs of family members are quite interesting and enhance the work, but the sources (for future reference) should have been given—even though one may assume they are in the author's possession.

It is evident that a great amount of time and labor was spent in the preparation of this work. Dorothy Knoff has presented the genealogy of the Corbin family, and to a lesser extent the Waite and Cooper families, in an easily understandable and consistent system. Her digressions into personal reminiscences and anecdotes are slightly distracting, and might have been placed in footnote form or an oral history addendum. This work provides ready access to a number of abstracted court records, land records, and tax lists, along with hitherto unpublished family data, on the Corbin, Waite, Cooper, and allied families, and therein lies the greatest strength of this genealogy.

GARY W. PARKS
University of North Carolina, Greensboro

NEWS AND NOTICES

WOMEN IN THE AGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The United States Capitol Historical Society, in cooperation with the United States Congress, will sponsor a symposium entitled "Women in the Age of the American Revolution" on March 27 and 28, 1985. The meeting will be held in the Senate Caucus Room, #325, in the Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. The program will consist of four sessions and a concluding lecture, followed by a reception. Speakers will include Lois Green Carr, Mary Maples Dunn, David Grimsted, Jacqueline Jones, Linda K. Kerber, Gloria L. Main, Sally D. Mason, David E. Narrett, Mary Beth Norton, Marylynn Salmon, Carole Shammas, Daniel Scott Smith, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, and Lorena S. Walsh. All proceedings, including the reception, are open to interested persons free of charge, and no advance registration is required. For additional information, write:

Professor Ronald Hoffman
Department of History
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL LITERARY SOCIETY AWARDS

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society announces the 1984 Awards for historical research and writing on the period of the Confederate States of America: the Jefferson Davis Award, for book-length narrative history, and the Founders Award for excellence in the editing of primary source materials. The deadline for entries is March 1, 1985; only works published during 1984 will be accepted. Awards, consisting of a citation and an impression of the Great Seal of the Confederacy, are presented annually on June 3rd at the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia.

For further information, please write: The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219

MARYLAND PICTURE PUZZLE

Each installment of Maryland Picture Puzzle shows a photograph from the Maryland Historical Society's Prints and Photographs Division which is, in some way, puzzling. Test your knowledge by identifying it.

We apologize for the poor quality of reproduction in the Fall puzzle. The correct response is Loch Raven Reservoir in Baltimore County, 1912. The photographer is Thomas C. Worthington, Jr.

This issue's puzzle shows a Baltimore street corner from 1909. Which corner is it? (It was identified as Howard Street by an earlier cataloger, but we don't think so.) Which, if any, of the buildings shown are still standing today?

Please addresss your reply to:

Laurie A. Baty
Prints and Photographs Librarian
Maryland Historical Society
201 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

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Cynthia H. Requardt

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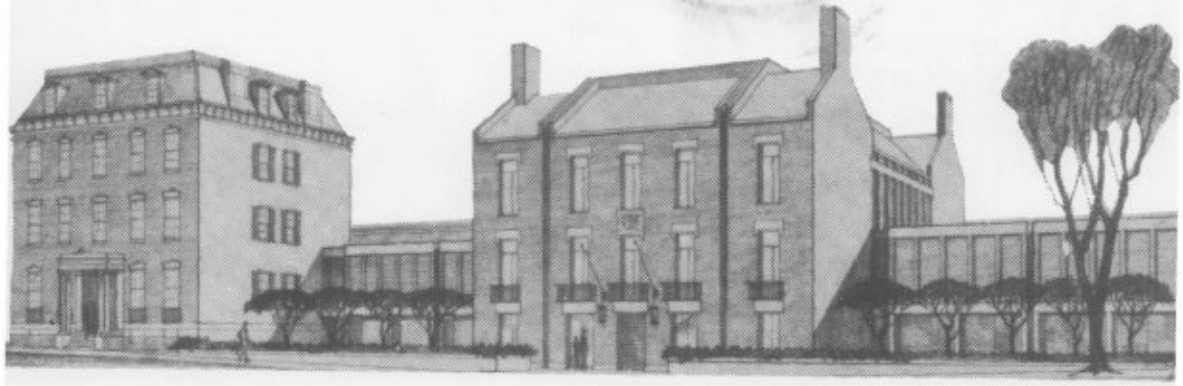

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